

2

Bell's Edition.

ALL's WELL THAT ENDS WELL,
BY
WILL. SHAKSPERE:

Printed Complete from the TEXT of
SAM. JOHNSON and GEO. STEEVENS,
And revised from the last Editions.

When Learning's triumph o'er her barb'rous foes
First rear'd the Stage, immortal *SHAKSPERE* rose;
Each change of many-colour'd life he drew,
Exhausted worlds, and then imagin'd new:
Existence saw him spurn her bounded reign,
And panting Time toil'd after him in vain:
His pow'rful strokes presiding Truth confess'd,
And unresisted Passion storm'd the breast.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

LONDON:

Printed for, and under the direction of,
JOHN BELL, British-Library, STRAND,
Bookseller to his Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES.

M DCC LXXXVI.

25c

NOV 18 1880

ALL NEW YORK

WILL. SHARPER

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

and others of the New York

Printed by the NEW YORK

W. E. JOHNSON & CO. STEELERS

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE Fable AND Composition OF

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

THE story of *All's Well that Ends Well*, or, as I suppose it to have been sometimes called, *Love's Labour Wonne*, is originally indeed the property of Boccace, but it came immediately to Shakspeare from *Painter's Gilletta of Narbon*, in the first volume of the *Palace of Pleasure*, 4to. 1598, p. 282.

FARMER.

This play has many delightful scenes, though not sufficiently probable; and some happy characters, though not new, nor produced by any deep knowledge of human nature. Parolles is a boaster and a coward, such as has always been the sport of the stage, but perhaps never raised more laughter or contempt than in the hands of Shakspeare.

I cannot reconcile my heart to Bertram; a man noble without generosity, and young without truth; who marries Helen as a coward, and leaves her as a profligate: when she is dead by his unkindness, sneaks home to a second marriage, is accused by a woman whom he has wronged, defends himself by falsehood, and is dismissed to happiness.

The story of Bertram and Diana had been told before of Mariana and Angelo, and, to confess the truth, scarcely merited to be heard a second time. JOHNSON.

Dramatis Personae.

MEN.

King of France.

Duke of Florence.

BERTRAM, *Count of Rousillon.*

LAFEU, *an old Lord.*

PAROLLES, *a parasitical Follower of Bertram; a Coward, but vain, and a great Pretender to Valour.*

Several young French Lords, that serve with Bertram in the Florentine War.

Steward, } *Servants to the Countess of Rousillon.*
Clown, }

WOMEN.

Countess of Rousillon, Mother to Bertram.

HELENA, *Daughter to Gerard de Narbon, a famous Physician, some time since dead.*

An old Widow of Florence.

DIANA, *Daughter to the Widow.*

VIOLENTA, } *Neighbours and Friends to the Widow.*
MARIANA, }

Lords, attending on the King; Officers, Soldiers, &c.

SCENE *lies partly in France, and partly in Tuscany.*

The Persons were first enumerated by Rowe.



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

ACT I. SCENE I.

The Countess of Rousillon's House in France. Enter BERTRAM, the Countess of Rousillon, HELENA, and LAFEU, all in black.

Countess.

IN delivering my son from me, I bury a second husband.

Ber. And I, in going, madam, weep o'er my father's death anew: but I must attend his majesty's command, to whom I am now in ward, evermore in subjection.

Laf. You shall find of the king a husband, madam; you, sir, a father. He, that so generally is at all times good, must of necessity hold his virtue to you; whose worthiness would stir it up where it wanted,

wanted, rather than slack it where there is such abundance. 12

Count. What hope is there of his majesty's amendment?

Laf. He hath abandon'd his physicians, madam, under whose practices he hath persecuted time with hope; and finds no other advantage in the process, but only the losing of hope by time.

Count. This young gentlewoman had a father (O, that *had!* how sad a passage 'tis!) whose skill was almost as great as his honesty; had it stretch'd so far, it would have made nature immortal, and death should have play'd for lack of work. 'Would, for the king's sake, he were living! I think it would be the death of the king's disease. 25

Laf. How call'd you the man you speak of, madam?

Count. He was famous, sir, in his profession, and it was his great right to be so: Gerard de Narbon.

Laf. He was excellent, indeed, madam; the king very lately spoke of him, admiringly, and mourningly: he was skilful enough to have liv'd still, if knowledge could have been set up against mortality.

Ber. What is it, my good lord, the king languishes of? 35

Laf. A fistula, my lord.

Ber. I heard not of it before.

Laf. I would, it were not notorious.—Was this gentlewoman the daughter of Gerard de Narbon?

Count. His sole child, my lord; and bequeathed to my

uch my overlooking. I have those hopes of her good,
 12 that her education promises : her disposition she in-
 d-herits, which makes fair gifts fairer : for where an
 unclean mind carries virtuous qualities, there com-
 mendations go with pity, they are virtues and traitors
 too ; in her they are the better for their simpleness ;
 she derives her honesty, and achieves her goodness.

Laf. Your commendations, madam, get from her
 tears.

49

Count. 'Tis the best brine a maiden can season her
 praise in. The remembrance of her father never ap-
 proaches her heart, but the tyranny of her sorrows
 takes all livelihood from her cheek. No more of this,
 Helena, go to, no more ; lest it be rather thought
 you affect a sorrow, than to have.

Hel. I do affect a sorrow, indeed, but I have it too.

Laf. Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead,
 excessive grief the enemy to the living.

Count. If the living be enemy to the grief, the ex-
 cess makes it soon mortal.

60

Ber. Madam, I desire your holy wishes.

Laf. How understand we that ?

Count. Be thou blest, Bertram, and succeed thy
 father

In manners as in shape ! thy blood, and virtue
 Contend for empire in thee ; and thy goodness
 Share with thy birth-right ! Love all, trust a few,
 Do wrong to none : be able for thine enemy
 Rather in power, than use ; and keep thy friend
 Under thy own life's key : be check'd for silence,

But

But never tax'd for speech. What heaven more will,
That thee may furnish, and my prayers pluck down,
Fall on thy head! Farewel, my lord; 72
'Tis an unseason'd courtier, good my lord,
Advise him.

Laf. He cannot want the best,
That shall attend his love.

Count. Heaven bless him! Farewel, Bertram.

[*Exit Countess.*]

Ber. [*To HELENA.*] The best wishes that can be
forg'd in your thoughts, be servants to you! Be com-
fortable to my mother, your mistress, and make much
of her. 81

Laf. Farewel, pretty lady: you must hold the cre-
dit of your father. [*Exeunt BER. and LAF.*]

Hel. Oh, were that all!—I think not on my father;
And these great tears grace his remembrance more,
Than those I shed for him. What was he like?
I have forgot him: my imagination
Carries no favour in it, but Bertram's.
I am undone; there is no living, none,
If Bertram be away. It were all one, 90
That I should love a bright particular star,
And think to wed it, he is so above me:
In his bright radiance and collateral light
Must I be comforted, not in his sphere.
The ambition in my love thus plagues itself:
The hind, that would be mated by the lion,
Must die for love. 'Twas pretty, tho' a plague,
To see him every hour; to sit and draw

His

His arched brows, his hawking eye, his curls,
In our heart's table: heart, too capable 100
Of every line and trick of his sweet favour!——
But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancy
Must sanctify his relicks. Who comes here?

Enter PAROLLES.

One that goes with him: I love him for his sake;
And yet I know him a notorious liar;
Think him a great way fool, solely a coward;
Yet these fix'd evils sit so fit in him,
That they take place, when virtue's steely bones
Look bleak in the cold wind: full oft we see
Cold wisdom waiting on superfluous folly. 110

Par. Save you, fair queen.

Hel. And you, monarch.

Par. No.

Hel. And, no.——

Par. Are you meditating on virginity?

Hel. Ay: you have some stain of soldier in you;
let me ask you a question. Man is enemy to virgi-
nity; how may we barricado it against him?

Par. Keep him out.

Hel. But he assails; and our virginity, tho' valiant,
in the defence yet is weak: unfold to us some warlike
resistance. 122

Par. There is none: man sitting down before you,
will undermine you, and blow you up.

Hel. Bless our poor virginity from underminers and

blowers up!—Is there no military policy, how virgins might blow up men?

Par. Virginity being blown down, man will quicklier be blown up: marry, in blowing him down again, with the breach yourselves made, you lose your city. It is not politick in the commonwealth of nature, to preserve virginity. Loss of virginity is rational increase; and there was never virgin got, 'till virginity was first lost. That you were made of, is metal to make virgins. Virginity, by being once lost, may be ten times found: by being ever kept, it is ever lost: 'tis too cold a companion: away with it.

Hel. I will stand for't a little, though therefore I die a virgin. 139

Par. There's little can be said in't; 'tis against the rule of nature. To speak on the part of virginity, is to accuse your mothers; which is most infallible disobedience. He, that hangs himself, is a virgin: virginity murders itself: and should be buried in highways, out of all sanctified limit, as a desperate offends against nature. Virginity breeds mites, much like a cheese; consumes itself to the very paring, and so dies with feeding its own stomach. Besides, virginity is peevish, proud, idle, made of self-love, which is the most inhibited sin in the canon. Keep it not; you cannot choose but lose by't. Out with't; within ten years it will make itself two, which is a goodly increase; and the principal itself not much the worse. Away with't. 154

Hel.

Hel. How might one do, sir, to lose it to her own liking?

Par. Let me see. Marry, ill, to like him that ne'er it likes. 'Tis a commodity will lose the gloss with lying. The longer kept, the less worth: off with't, while 'tis vendible. Answer the time of request. Virginity, like an old courtier, wears her cap out of fashion: richly suited, but unsuitable; just like the brooch and the tooth-pick, which wear not now: your date is better in your pye and your porridge, than in your cheek: and your virginity, your old virginity, is like one of our French wither'd pears; it looks ill; it eats dryly; marry, 'tis a wither'd pear: it was formerly better; marry, yet, 'tis a wither'd pear. Will you any thing with it?

Hel. Not my virginity yet.

170

There shall your master have a thousand loves,
A mother, and a mistress, and a friend,
A phoenix, captain, and an enemy,
A guide, a goddess, and a sovereign,
A counsellor, a traitress, and a dear;
His humble ambition, proud humility;
His jarring concord; and his discord dulcet;
His faith, his sweet disaster; with a world
Of pretty, fond, adoptious christendoms,
That blinking Cupid gossips. Now shall he——
I know not, what he shall:—God send him well!—
The court's a learning place;—and he is one—— 182

Par. What one, i'faith?

Hel. That I wish well——'Tis pity——

B i j

Par.

Par. What's pity?

Hel. That wishing well had not a body in't,
Which might be felt: that we, the poorer born,
Whose baser stars do shut us up in wishes,
Might with effects of them follow our friends,
And shew what we alone must think, which never
Returns us thanks. 191

Enter Page.

Page. Monsieur Parolles, my lord calls for you.

[*Exit Page.*

Par. Little Helen, farewell: if I can remember
thee, I will think of thee at court.

Hel. Monsieur Parolles, you were born under a
charitable star.

Par. Under Mars, I.

Hel. I especially think, under Mars.

Par. Why under Mars?

Hel. The wars have kept you so under, that you
must needs be born under Mars. 201

Par. When he was predominant.

Hel. When he was retrograde, I think, rather.

Par. Why think you so?

Hel. You go so much backward, when you fight.

Par. That's for advantage.

Hel. So is running away, when fear proposes the
safety: but the composition that your valour and fear
makes in you, is a virtue of a good wing, and I like
the wear well. 210

Par. I am so full of businesses, I cannot answer
thee

thee acutely : I will return perfect courtier ; in the which, my instruction shall serve to naturalize thee, so thou wilt be capable of courtier's counsel, and understand what advice shall thrust upon thee ; else thou diest in thine unthankfulness, and thine ignorance makes thee away ; farewell. When thou hast leisure, say thy prayers ; when thou hast none, remember thy friends : get thee a good husband, and use him as he uses thee ; so farewell. [*Exit.*

Hel. Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie, 221
Which we ascribe to heaven. The fated sky
Gives us free scope ; only, doth backward pull
Our slow designs, when we ourselves are dull.
What power is it, which mounts my love so high ;
That makes me see, and cannot feed mine eye ?
The mightiest space in fortune, nature brings
To join like likes, and kiss, like native things.
Impossible be strange attempts, to those
That weigh their pain in sense ; and do suppose, 230
What hath been, cannot be. Whoever strove
To shew her merit, that did miss her love ?
The king's disease—my project may deceive me,
But my intents are fix'd, and will not leave me.
[*Exit.*

SCENE II.

Changes to the Court of France. Flourish Cornets. Enter the King of France, with Letters, and divers Attendants.

King. The Florentines and Senoys are by the ears ;
Have fought with equal fortune, and continue
A braving war.

1 Lord. So 'tis reported, sir.

King. Nay, 'tis most credible ; we here receive it,
A certainty, vouch'd from our cousin Austria ; 240
With caution that the Florentine will move us
For speedy aid ; wherein our dearest friend
Prejudicates the business, and would seem
To have us make denial.

1 Lord. His love, and wisdom,
Approv'd so to your majesty, may plead
For ample credence.

King. He hath arm'd our answer ;
And Florence is deny'd, before he comes :
Yet, for our gentlemen that mean to see 250
The Tuscan service, freely have they leave
To stand on either part.

2 Lord. It may well serve
A nursery to our gentry, who are sick
For breathing and exploit.

King. What's he comes here ?

Enter

Enter BERTRAM, LAFEU, and PAROLLES.

1 Lord. It is the count Rousillon, my good lord,
Young Bertram.

King. Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face.
Frank nature, rather curious than in haste, 260
Hath well compos'd thee. Thy father's moral parts
May'st thou inherit too! Welcome to Paris.

Ber. My thanks, and duty, are your majesty's.

King. I would I had that corporal soundness now,
As when thy father, and myself, in friendship
First try'd our soldiership! He did look far
Into the service of the time, and was
Disciplined of the bravest. He lasted long;
But on us both did haggish age steal on,
And wore us out of act. It much repairs me
To talk of your good father: in his youth 271
He had the wit, which I can well observe
To-day in our young lords, but they may jest,
Till their own scorn return to them; unnoted,
Ere they can hide their levity in honour.
So like a courtier, contempt nor bitterness
Were in his pride or sharpness; if they were,
His equal had awak'd them; and his honour,
Clock to itself, knew the true minute when
Exception bid him speak; and, at that time
His tongue obey'd his hand. Who were below him
He us'd as creatures of another place; 282
And bow'd his eminent top to their low ranks,
Making them proud of his humility,

In

In their poor praise he humbled : Such a man
Might be a copy to these younger times ;
Which, follow'd well, would demonstrate them now
But goers backward.

Ber. His good remembrance, sir,
Lies richer in your thoughts, than on his tomb ;
So in approof lives not his epitaph, 291
As in your royal speech.

King. Would, I were with him ! He would always
say
(Methinks, I hear him now ; his plausible words
He scatter'd not in ears, but grafted them
To grow there, and to bear)—*Let me not live—*
—Thus his good melancholy oft began,
On the catastrophe and heel of pastime,
When it was out—*let me not live* (quoth he),
After my flame lacks oil, to be the snuff 300
Of younger spirits ; whose apprehensive senses
All but new things disdain ; whose judgments are
Meer fathers of their garments ; whose constancies
*Expire before their fashions :—*This he wish'd.
I, after him, do after him wish too,
Since I nor wax, nor honey, can bring home,
I quickly were dissolved from my hive,
To give some labourer room.

2 *Lord.* You are lov'd, sir ;
They, that least lend it you, shall lack you first. 310

King. I fill a place, I know't.—How long is't,
count,
Since the physician at your father's died ?

He was much fam'd.

Ber. Some six months since, my lord.

King. If he were living, I would try him yet;—
Lend me an arm;—the rest have worn me out
With several applications:—nature and sickness
Debate it at their leisure.—Welcome, count,
My son's no dearer.

Ber. Thank your majesty. [Flourish. Exeunt.

SCENE III.

*A Room in the Count's Palace. Enter Countess, Steward,
and Clown.*

Count. I will now hear, what say you of this gentlewoman? 322

Stew. Madam, the care I have had to even your content, I wish might be found in the calendar of my past endeavours; for then we wound our modesty, and make foul the clearness of our deservings, when of ourselves we publish them.

Count. What does this knave here? Get you gone, sirrah: the complaints, I have heard of you, I do not all believe; 'tis my slowness that I do not: for, I know, you lack not folly to commit them, and have ability enough to make such knaveries your's. 332

Clo. 'Tis not unknown to you, madam, that I am a poor fellow.

Count. Well, sir.

Clo.

Clo. No, madam, 'tis not so well, that I am poor ; though many of the rich are damn'd : but, if I have your ladyship's good-will to go to the world, Isbel the woman and I will do as we may.

Count. Wilt thou needs be a beggar ? 340

Clo. I do beg your good-will in this case.

Count. In what case ?

Clo. In Isbel's case, and mine own. Service is no heritage ; and, I think, I shall never have the blessing of God, 'till I have issue of my body ; for, they say, bearns are blessings.

Count. Tell me thy reason why thou wilt marry.

Clo. My poor body, madam, requires it. I am driven on by the flesh ; and he must needs go, that the devil drives. 350

Count. Is this all your worship's reason ?

Clo. Faith, madam, I have other holy reasons, such as they are.

Count. May the world know them ?

Clo. I have been, madam, a wicked creature, as you and all flesh and blood are ; and, indeed, I do marry, that I may repent.

Count. Thy marriage, sooner than thy wickedness.

Clo. I am out of friends, madam ; and I hope to have friends for my wife's sake. 360

Count. Such friends are thine enemies, knave.

Clo. You are shallow, madam, in great friends ; for the knaves come to do that for me, which I am weary of. He, that eares my land, spares my team, and gives me leave to inn the crop : If I be his cuck-
old,

old, he's my drudge. He, that comforts my wife, is the cherisher of my flesh and blood; he, that cherisheth my flesh and blood, loves my flesh and blood; he, that loves my flesh and blood, is my friend: *ergo*, he that kisses my wife, is my friend. If men could be contented to be what they are, there were no fear in marriage; for young Charbon the puritan, and old Poysam the papist, howsee'er their hearts are sever'd in religion, their heads are both one; they may joul horns together, like any deer i' the herd. 375

Count. Wilt thou ever be a foul-mouth'd and a calumnious knave?

Clo. A prophet, I, madam; I speak the truth the next way:—

“ For I the ballad will repeat, which men full true
“ shall find;

“ Your marriage comes by destiny, your cuckoo
“ sings by kind.”

Count. Get you gone, sir; I'll talk with you more anon.

Stew. May it please you, madam, that he bid Helen come to you; of her I am to speak.

Count. Sirrah, tell my gentlewoman I would speak with her; Helen I mean.

Clo. “ Was this fair face the cause, quoth she,
[Singing.

“ Why the Grecians sacked Troy?

“ Fond

“Fond done, done fond ; 390

“Was this king Priam's joy ?

“With that she sighed as she stood,

“With that she sighed as she stood,

“And gave this sentence then ;

“Among nine bad if one be good,

“Among nine bad if one be good,

“There's yet one good in ten.”

Count. What, one good in ten ? You corrupt the song, sirrah. 399

Clo. One good woman in ten, madam ; which is a purifying o' the song : 'Would, God would serve the world so all the year ! we'd find no fault with the tythe-woman, if I were the parson : One in ten, quoth a' ! an we might have a good woman born but every blazing star, or at an earthquake, 'twould mend the lottery well ; a man may draw his heart out, ere he pluck one.

Count. You'll be gone, sir knave, and do as I command you ? 409

Clo. That man should be at woman's command, and yet no hurt done !—Though honesty be no puritan, yet it will do no hurt ; it will wear the surplice of humility over the black gown of a big heart—I am going, forsooth. The business is for Helen to come hither. *[Exit.]*

Count. Well, now.

Stew. I know, madam, you love your gentlewoman entirely.

Count.

Count. Faith, I do: her father bequeath'd her to me; and she herself, without other advantage, may lawfully make title to as much love as she finds: there is more owing her than is paid; and more shall be paid her, than she'll demand. 423

Stew. Madam, I was very late more near her, than, I think, she wish'd me: alone she was, and did communicate to herself, her own words to her own ears; she thought, I dare vow for her, they touch'd not any stranger sense. Her matter was, she lov'd your son: Fortune, she said, was no goddess, that had put such difference betwixt their two estates; Love, no god, that would not extend his might, only where qualities were level; Diana, no queen of virgins, that would suffer her poor knight to be surprised without rescue in the first assault, or ransom afterward. This she deliver'd in the most bitter touch of sorrow, that e'er I heard a virgin exclaim in: which I held it my duty speedily to acquaint you withal; sithence, in the loss that may happen, it concerns you something to know it. 439

Count. You have discharg'd this honestly; keep it to yourself: many likelihoods inform'd me of this before, which hung so tottering in the balance, that I could neither believe, nor misdoubt: pray you, leave me: stall this in your bosom, and I thank you for your honest care: I will speak with you further anon. [Exit Steward.]

Enter HELENA.

Count. Even so it was with me, when I was young :

If we are nature's, these are ours : this thorn
Doth to our rose of youth rightly belong ;

Our blood to us, this to our blood, is born ;
It is the shew and seal of nature's truth, 451
Where love's strong passion is imprest in youth :

By our remembrances of days foregone,
Such were our faults, O! then we thought them none.
Her eye is sick on't ; I observe her now.—

Hel. What is your pleasure, madam ?

Count. You know, Helen, I am a mother to you.

Hel. Mine honourable mistress.

Count. Nay, a mother ;

Why not a mother ? when I said, a mother, 460

Methought, you saw a serpent : What's in mother,

That you start at it ? I say, I am your mother ;

And put you in the catalogue of those

That were enwombed mine : 'Tis often seen,

Adoption strives with nature ; and choice breeds

A native slip to us from foreign seeds.

You ne'er oppress'd me with a mother's groan,

Yet I express to you a mother's care :—

God's mercy, maiden ! does it curd thy blood,

To say, I am thy mother ? What's the matter, 470

That this distemper'd messenger of wet,

The many-colour'd Iris, rounds thine eye ?

Why ?——that you are my daughter ?

Hel. That I am not.

Count.

Λ

○

V

V

V

Λ

Λ

Λ

Count. I say, I am your mother.

Hel. Pardon, madam.

The count Rousillon cannot be my brother :
I am from humble, he from honour'd name ;
No note upon my parents, his all noble.
My master, my dear lord he is ; and I 480
His servant live, and will his vassal die ;
He must not be my brother.—

Count. Nor I your mother ?

Hel. You are my mother, madam ; would you were
(So that my lord, your son, were not my brother),
Indeed, my mother!—or, were you both our mothers
I care no more for, than I do for heaven.
So I were not his sister : can't no other,
But, I your daughter, he must be my brother ?

Count. Yes, Helen, you might be my daughter-in-
law ; 490

God shield, you mean it not ! daughter, and mother
So strive upon your pulse : What, pale again ?
My fear hath catch'd your fondness.—Now I see
The mystery of your loneliness, and find
Your salt tears' head. Now to all sense 'tis gross,
You love my son ; invention is asham'd,
Against the proclamation of thy passion,
To say, thou dost not : therefore tell me true ;
But tell me then 'tis so :—For, look, thy cheeks
Confess it one to the other ; and thine eyes 500
See it so grosly shewn in thy behaviour,
That in their kind they speak it : only sin
And hellish obstinacy tie thy tongue,

That truth should be suspected : speak, is't so?
 If it be so, you have wound a goodly clue :
 If it be not, forswear't : howe'er, I charge thee,
 As heaven shall work in me for thine avail,
 To tell me truly.

Hel. Good madam, pardon me!

Count. Do you love my son? 510

Hel. Your pardon, noble mistress!

Count. Love you my son?

Hel. Do not you love him, madam?

Count. Go not about; my love hath in't a bond,
 Whereof the world takes note : come, come, disclose
 The state of your affection; for your passions
 Have to the full appeach'd.

Hel. Then, I confess,
 Here on my knee, before high heaven and you,
 That before you, and next unto high heaven, 520
 I love your son:—

My friends were poor, but honest; so's my love :
 Be not offended; for it hurts not him,
 That he is lov'd of me : I follow him not
 By any token of presumptuous suit;
 Nor would I have him, 'till I do deserve him;
 Yet never know, how that desert should be.
 I know, I love in vain, strive against hope;
 Yet, in this captious and intenible sieve,
 I still pour in the waters of my love, 530

And lack not to lose still : thus, Indian-like,
 Religious in mine error, I adore
 The sun, that looks upon his worshipper,

But

But knows of him no more. My dearest madam,
 Let not your hate encounter with my love,
 For loving where you do: but if yourself,
 Whose aged honour cites a virtuous youth,
 Did ever, in so true a flame of liking
 Wish chastly, and love dearly, that your Dian
 Was both herself and love; O then, give pity 540
 To her, whose state is such, that cannot choose
 But lend, and give, where she is sure to lose;
 That seeks not to find that, her search implies;
 But, riddle-like, lives sweetly where she dies.

Count. Had you not lately an intent, speak truly,
 To go to Paris?

Hel. Madam, I had.

Count. Wherefore? tell true.

Hel. I will tell truth; by grace itself, I swear.

You know, my father left me some prescriptions
 Of rare, and prov'd effects; such as his reading 551
 And manifest experience had collected
 For general sovereignty; and that he will'd me,
 In heedfullest reservation to bestow them,
 As notes, whose faculties inclusive were,
 More than they were in note? amongst the rest,
 There is a remedy, approv'd, set down,
 To cure the desperate languishings, whereof
 The king is render'd lost.

Count. This was your motive 560
 For Paris, was it? speak.

Hel. My lord your son made me to think of this;
 Else Paris, and the medicine, and the king,

Had from the conversation of my thoughts,
Haply, been absent then.

Count. But think you, Helen,
If you should tender your supposed aid,
He would receive it? He and his physicians
Are of a mind; he, that they cannot help him,
They, that they cannot help. How shall they credit
A poor unlearned virgin, when the schools, 571
Embowell'd of their doctrine, have left off
The danger to itself?

Hel. There's something hints
More than my father's skill (which was the greatest
Of his profession), that his good receipt
Shall, for my legacy, be sanctified
By the luckiest stars in heaven: and, would your
honour

But give me leave to try success, I'd venture
The well-lost life of mine on his grace's cure, 580
By such a day, and hour.

Count. Dost thou believ't?

Hel. Ay, madam, knowingly.

Count. Why, Helen, thou shalt have my leave and
love,
Means, and attendants; and my loving greetings
To those of mine in court:—I'll stay at home,
And pray God's blessing into thy attempt:
Begone to-morrow; and be sure of this,
What I can help thee to, thou shalt not miss. [*Exeunt.*

ACT II. SCENE I.

The Court of France. Enter the King, with young Lords taking Leave for the Florentine War. BERTRAM and PAROLLES. Flourish Cornets.

King.

FAREWEL, young lords: these warlike principles
Do not throw from you; and you, my lords, fare-
wel:—

Share the advice betwixt you; if both gain all,
The gift doth stretch itself as 'tis receiv'd,
And is enough for both.

1 *Lord.* 'Tis our hope, sir,
After well-enter'd soldiers, to return
And find your grace in health.

King. No, no, it cannot be; and yet my heart
Will not confess, he owes the malady 10
That doth my life besiege. Farewel, young lords;
Whether I live or die, be you the sons
Of worthy Frenchmen: let higher Italy
(Those 'bated, that inherit but the fall
Of the last monarchy) see, that you come
Not to woo honour, but to wed it; when
The bravest questant shrinks, find what you seek,
That Fame may cry you loud: I say, farewell.

2 *Lord.* Health, at your bidding, serve your ma-
jesty!

King. Those girls of Italy——take heed of them;
They

They say, our French lack language to deny, 21
 If they demand. Beware of being captives,
 Before you serve.

Both. Our hearts receive your warnings.

King. Farewel. Come hither to me.

[*The King retires to a Couch.*]

1 *Lord.* Oh, my sweet lord, that you will stay behind us! —

Par. 'Tis not his fault; the spark —

2 *Lord.* Oh, 'tis brave wars!

Par. Most admirable: I have seen those wars. 29

Ber. I am commanded here, and kept a coil with;
Too young, and the next year, and 'tis too early —

Par. An thy mind stand to it, boy, steal away bravely.

Ber. I shall stay here the forehorse to a smock,
 Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry,
 'Till honour be bought up, and no sword worn
 But one to dance with! by heaven, I'll steal away.

1 *Lord.* There's honour in the theft.

Par. Commit it, count.

2 *Lord.* I am your accessory; and so farewell.

Ber. I grow to you, and our parting is a tortur'd body. 41

1 *Lord.* Farewel, captain.

2 *Lord.* Sweet monsieur Parolles! —

Par. Noble heroes, my sword and your's are kin.
 Good sparks and lustrous, a word, good metals.
 You shall find in the regiment of the Spinii, one
 captain Spurio, with his cicatrice, an emblem of war,
here

here on his sinister cheek ; it was this very sword
entrench'd it : say to him, I live ; and observe his
reports of me. 50

2 Lord. We shall, noble captain.

Par. Mars doat on you for his novices ! what will
you do ?

Ber. Stay ; the king——

Par. Use a more spacious ceremony to the noble
lords : you have restrain'd yourself within the list of
too cold an adieu : be more expressive to them ; for
they wear themselves in the cap of the time, there,
do muster true gait, eat, speak, and move under the
influence of the most receiv'd star ; and though the
devil lead the measure, such are to be follow'd : after
them, and take a more dilated farewell. 62

Ber. And I will do so.

Par. Worthy fellows ; and like to prove most
sinewy sword-men. [*Exeunt.*

Enter LAFEU.

[*LAFEU kneels.*

Laf. Pardon, my lord, for me and for my tidings.

King. I'll fee thee to stand up.

Laf. Then here's a man
Stands, that has bought his pardon. I would, you
Had kneel'd my lord, to ask me mercy ; and 70
That, at my bidding, you could so stand up.

King. I would I had ; so I had broke thy pate,
And ask'd thee mercy for't.

Laf. Goodfaith, across : —— but, my good lord,
'tis thus ;

Will

Will you be cur'd of your infirmity ?

King. No.

Laf. O, will you eat no grapes, my royal fox ?
Yes, but you will, my noble grapes ; an if
My royal fox could reach them : I have seen a *medecin*,
That's able to breathe life into a stone ; 80

Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary
With sprightly fire and motion ; whose simple touch
Is powerful to raise king Pepin, nay,
To give great Charlemain a pen in his hand,
And write to her a love-line.

King. What her is this ?

Laf. Why, doctor-she : my lord, there's one ar-
riv'd,

If you will see her. Now, by my faith and honour,
If seriously I may convey my thoughts
In this my light deliverance, I have spoke 90
With one, that in her sex, her years, profession,
Wisdom, and constancy, hath amaz'd me more
Than I dare blame my weakness : Will you see her
(For that is her demand), and know her business ?
That done, laugh well at me.

King. Now, good Lafeu,
Bring in the admiration ; that we with thee,
May spend our wonder too, or take off thine,
By wondering how thou took'st it.

Laf. Nay, I'll fit you, 100
And not be all day neither. [Exit LAFEU.

King. Thus he his special nothing ever prologues.

Laf.

Laf. [*Returns.*] Nay, come your ways.

[*Bringing in HELENA.*]

King. This haste hath wings, indeed.

Laf. Nay, come your ways;

This is his majesty, say your mind to him:

A traitor you do look like; but such traitors

His majesty seldom fears: I am Cressid's uncle,

That dare leave two together; fare you well. [*Exit.*]

King. Now, fair one, do's your business follow us?

Hel. Ay, my good lord. Gerard de Narbon was
My father; in what he did profess, well found. 112

King. I knew him.

Hel. The rather will I spare my praise toward him;
Knowing him, is enough. On his bed of death

Many receipts he gave me; chiefly one,

Which, as the dearest issue of his practice,

And of his old experience the only darling,

He bade me store up, as a triple eye,

Safer than mine own too; more dear I have so: 120

And hearing your high majesty is touch'd

With that malignant cause, wherein the honour

Of my dear father's gift stands chief in power,

I come to tender it, and my appliance,

With all bound humbleness.

King. We thank you, maiden;

But may not be so credulous of cure,

When our most learned doctors leave us; and

The congregated college have concluded,

That labouring art can never ransom nature 130

From her unaidable estate: I say we must not

So stain our judgment, or corrupt our hope,
To prostitute our past-cure malady
To empiricks ; or to dissever so
Our great self and our credit, to esteem
A senseless help, when help past sense we deem.

Hel. My duty then shall pay me for my pains :
I will no more enforce mine office on you ;
Humbly entreating from your royal thoughts
A modest one, to bear me back again. 140

King. I cannot give thee less, to be call'd grateful :
Thou thought'st to help me ; and such thanks I give,
As one near death to those that wish him live :
But what at full I know, thou know'st no part
I knowing all my peril, thou no art.

Hel. What I can do, can do no hurt to try,
Since you set up your rest 'gainst remedy.
He that of greatest works is finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister :
So holy writ in babes hath judgment shown, 150
When judges have been babes ; great floods have
flown

From simple sources ; and great seas have dry'd,
When miracles have by the greatest been deny'd.
Oft expectation fails, and most oft there
Where most it promises ; and oft it hits
Where hope is coldest, and despair most sits.

King. I must not hear thee ; fare thee well, kind
maid ;
Thy pains, not us'd, must by thyself be paid :
Proffers, not took, reap thanks for their reward.

Hel.

Hel. Inspired merit so by breath is barr'd : 160
 It is not so with him, that all things knows,
 As 'tis with us, that square our guess by shows :
 But most it is presumption in us, when
 The help of heaven we count the act of men.
 Dear sir, to my endeavours give consent ;
 Of heaven, not me, make an experiment.
 I am not an impostor, that proclaim
 Myself against the level of mine aim ;
 But know I think, and think I know most sure,
 My art is not past power, nor you past cure. 170

King. Art thou so confident ? Within what space
 Hop'st thou my cure ?

Hel. The greatest grace lending grace,
 Ere twice the horses of the sun shall bring
 Their fiery torcher his diurnal ring ;
 Ere twice in murk and occidental damp
 Moist Hesperus hath quench'd his sleepy lamp ;
 Or four and twenty times the pilot's glass
 Hath told the thievish minutes how they pass ;
 What is infirm from your sound parts shall fly, 180
 Health shall live free, and sickness freely die.

King. Upon thy certainty and confidence,
 What dar'st thou venture ?

Hel. Tax of impudence,
 A strumpet's boldness, a divulged shame
 Traduc'd by odious ballads ; my maiden's name
 Sear'd otherwise ; no worse of worst extended,
 With vilest torture let my life be ended.

D

King.

King. Methinks, in thee some blessed spirit doth speak,

His powerful sound within an organ weak : 190

And what impossibility would slay

In common sense, sense saves another way.

Thy life is dear ; for all, that life can rate

Worth name of life, in thee hath estimate ;

Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, virtue, all

That happiness and prime can happy call :

Thou this to hazard, needs must intimate

Skill infinite, or monstrous desperate.

Sweet practiser, thy physick I will try,

That ministers thine own death, if I die. 200

Hel. If I break time, or flinch in property

Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die ;

And well deserv'd ! Not helping, death's my fee ;

But if I help, what do you promise me ?

King. Make thy demand.

Hel. But will you make it even ?

King. Ay, by my sceptre, and my hopes of heaven.

Hel. Then shalt thou give me, with thy kingly hand,

What husband in thy power I will command.

Exempted be from me the arrogance 210

To choose from forth the royal blood of France ;

My low and humble name to propagate

With any branch or image of the state :

But such a one thy vassal ; whom I know

Is free for me to ask, thee to bestow.

King. Here is my hand ; the premises observ'd,

Thy will by my performance shall be serv'd :

So,

So, make the choice of thine own time, for I,
Thy resolv'd patient, on thee still rely.
More should I question thee, and more I must; 220
(Tho' more to know, could not be more to trust :)
From whence thou cam'st, how tended on—But rest
Unquestion'd welcome, and undoubted blest.
Give me some help here, ho ! If thou proceed
As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Rousillon. Enter Countess, and Clown.

Count. Come on, sir ; I shall now put you to the height of your breeding.

Clo. I will shew myself highly fed, and lowly taught : I know my business is but to the court. 229

Count. But to the court ? why, what place make you special, when you put off that with such contempt ? But to the court !

Clo. Truly, madam, if God have lent a man any manners, he may easily put it off at court : he that cannot make a leg, put off's cap, kiss his hand, and say nothing, has neither leg, hands, lip, nor cap ; and, indeed, such a fellow, to say precisely, were not for the court : but, for me, I have an answer will serve all men. 239

Count. Marry, that's a bountiful answer, that fits all questions.

D i j

Clo.

Clo. It is like a barber's chair, that fits all buttocks; the pin-buttock, the quatch-buttock, the brown-buttock, or any buttock.

Count. Will your answer serve fit to all questions?

Clo. As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an attorney, as your French crown for your taffaty punk, as Tib's rush for Tom's fore-finger, as a pancake for Shrove-Tuesday, a morris for May-day, as the nail to his hole, the cuckold to his horn, as a scolding quean to a wrangling knave, as the nun's lip to the friar's mouth; nay, as the pudding to his skin. 252

Count. Have you, I say, an answer of such fitness for all questions?

Clo. From below your duke, to beneath your constable, it will fit any question.

Count. It must be an answer of most monstrous size, that must fit all demands.

Clo. But a trifle neither, in good faith, if the learned should speak truth of it: here it is, and all that belongs to't. Ask me, if I am a courtier;—it shall do you no harm to learn. 262

Count. To be young again, if we could. I will be a fool in question, hoping to be the wiser by your answer. I pray you, sir, are you a courtier?

Clo. O Lord, sir—There's a simple putting off:—more, more, a hundred of them.

Count. Sir, I am a poor friend of your's, that loves you.

Clo. O Lord, sir—Thick, thick, spare not me.

Count.

Count. I think, sir, you can eat none of this homely meat. 272

Clo. O Lord, sir——Nay, put me to't, I warrant you.

Count. You were lately whipp'd, sir, as I think.

Clo. O Lord, sir——Spare not me.

Count. Do you cry, *O Lord, sir*, as you are whipping, and *spare not me*? indeed, your *O Lord, sir*, is very sequent to your whipping: you would answer very well to a whipping, if you were but bound to't.

Clo. I ne'er had worse luck in my life, in my——
O Lord, sir: I see, things may serve long, but not serve ever. 283

Count. I play the noble housewife with the time, to entertain it so merrily with a fool.

Clo. O Lord, sir—why, there't serves well again.

Count. An end, sir; to your business: Give Helen this,

And urge her to a present answer back:

Commend me to my kinsmen, and my son:

This is not much. 290

Clo. Not much commendation to them.

Count. Not much employment for you: You understand me.

Clo. Most fruitfully; I am there before my legs.

Count. Haste you again. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

The Court of France. Enter BERTRAM, LAFEU, and PAROLLES.

Laf. They say, miracles are past ; and we have our philosophical persons, to make modern, and familiar, things supernatural and causeless. Hence is it, that we make trifles of terrors ; ensconsing ourselves into seeming knowledge, when we should submit ourselves to an unknown fear. 301

Par. Why, 'tis the rarest argument of wonder, that hath shot out in our later times.

Ber. And so 'tis.

Laf. To be relinquinsh'd of the artists——

Par. So I say ; both of Galen and Paracelsus.

Laf. Of all the learned and authentic fellows——

Par. Right, so I say.

Laf. That gave him out incurable——

Par. Why, there 'tis ; so say I too. 310

Laf. Not to be help'd——

Par. Right ; as 'twere, a man assur'd of an——

Laf. Uncertain life, and sure death——

Par. Just, you say well ; so would I have said.

Laf. I may truly say, it is a novelty to the world.

Par. It is, indeed : if you will have it in shewing, you shall read it in, what do you call there?——

Laf. A shewing of a heavenly effect in an earthly actor. 319

Par. That's it, I would have said ; the very same.

Laf.

Laf. Why, your dolphin is not lustier: 'fore me I speak in respect—

Par. Nay, 'tis strange, 'tis very strange, that is the brief and the tedious of it; and he is of a most facinorous spirit, that will not acknowledge it to be the—

Laf. Very hand of heaven.

Par. Ay, so I say.

Laf. In a most weak—

Par. And debile minister, great power, great transcendence: which should, indeed, give us a farther use to be made, than alone the recovery of the king; as to be—

332

Laf. Generally thankful.

Enter King, HELENA, and Attendants.

Par. I would have said it; you said well. Here comes the king.

Laf. Lustick, as the Dutchman says. I'll like a maid the better, while I have a tooth in my head. Why, he's able to lead her a corranto.

Par. *Mort du Vinaigre!* is not this Helen?

Laf. 'Fore God, I think so.

340

King. Go, call before me all the lords in court.

Sit, my preserver, by thy patient's side;
And with this healthful hand, whose banish'd sense
Thou hast repeal'd, a second time receive
The confirmation of my promis'd gift;
Which but attends thy naming.

Enter

Enter three or four Lords.

Fair maid, send forth thine eye : this youthful parcel
Of noble bachelors stand at my bestowing,
O'er whom both sovereign power and father's voice
I have to use : thy frank election make ; 350
Thou hast power to choose, and they none to forsake.

Hel. To each of you one fair and virtuous mistress
Fall, when love please ! marry, to each but one !—

Laf. I'd give bay curtal and his furniture,
My mouth no more were broken than these boys,
And writ as little beard.

King. Peruse them well :
Not one of those, but had a noble father.

[She addresses herself to a Lord.]

Hel. Gentlemen, 359
Heaven hath, through me, restor'd the king to health.

All. We understand it, and thank heaven for you.

Hel. I am a simple maid, and therein wealthiest,
That, I protest, I simply am a maid.—
Please it your majesty, I have done already :
The blushes in my cheeks thus whisper me,
“ We blush that thou should choose, but be refus'd ;
“ Let the white death sit on thy cheek for ever,
“ We'll ne'er come there again.”

King. Make choice ; and see,
Who shuns thy love, shuns all his love in me. 370

Hel. Now, Dian, from thy altar do I fly ;
And to imperial *Love*, that god most high,
Do my sighs stream. Sir, will you hear my suit ?

1 Lord.

1 *Lord.* And grant it.

Hel. Thanks, sir ;——all the rest is mute.

Laf. I had rather be in this choice, than throw
ames-ace for my life.

Hel. The honour, sir, that flames in your fair eyes,
Before I speak, too threatningly replies :
Love make your fortunes twenty times above 380
Her that so wishes, and her humble love !

2 *Lord.* No better, if you please.

Hel. My wish receive,
Which great love grant ! and so I take my leave.

Laf. Do all they deny her ? An they were sons
of mine, I'd have them whipt ; or I would send them
to the Turk to make eunuchs of.

Hel. Be not afraid that I your hand should take ;
I'll never do you wrong for your own sake :
Blessing upon your vows ! and in your bed 390
Find fairer fortune, if you ever wed !

Laf. These boys are boys of ice, they'll none of
her : sure, they are bastards to the English ; the
French ne'er got 'em.

Hel. You are too young, too happy, and too good,
To make yourself a son out of my blood.

4 *Lord.* Fair one, I think not so.

Laf. There's one grape yet—I am sure, thy father
drunk wine.—But if thou be'st not an ass, I am a
youth of fourteen. I have known thee already. 400

Hel. I dare not say, I take you ; but I give
Me, and my service, ever whilst I live,
Into your guided power. This is the man.

[To BERTRAM.

King.

King. Why then, young Bertram, take her, she's thy wife.

Ber. My wife, my liege? I shall beseech your highness,

In such a business give me leave to use
The help of mine own eyes.

King. Know'st thou not, Bertram,
What she hath done for me?

Ber. Yes, my good lord; 410
But never hope to know why I should marry her.

King. Thou know'st, she has rais'd me from my sickly bed.

Ber. But follows it, my lord, to bring me down
Must answer for your raising? I know her well;
She had her breeding at my father's charge:
A poor physician's daughter my wife!—Disdain
Rather corrupt me ever!

King. 'Tis only title thou disdain'st in her, the
which
I can build up. Strange is it, that our bloods,
Of colour, weight, and heat, pour'd all together, 420
Would quite confound distinction, yet stand off
In differences, so mighty. If she be
All that is virtuous (save what thou dislik'st,
A poor physician's daughter), thou dislik'st
Of virtue for the name: but do not so.
From lowest place when virtuous things proceed,
The place is dignify'd by the doer's deed.
Where great addition swells, and virtue none,
It is a dropsied honour: good alone

Is good, without a name, vileness is so : 430
 The property by what it is should go,
 Not by the title. She is young, wise, fair ;
 In these, to nature she's immediate heir ;
 And these breed honour : that is honour's scorn,
 Which challenges itself as honour's born,
 And is not like the sire. Honours best thrive,
 When rather from our acts we them derive
 Than our fore-goers : the mere word's a slave
 Debauch'd on every tomb ; on every grave,
 A lying trophy ; and as oft is dumb, 440
 Where dust, and damn'd oblivion, is the tomb
 Of honour'd bones, indeed. What should be said ?
 If thou canst like this creature as a maid,
 I can create the rest : virtue, and she,
 Is her own dower ; honour, and wealth, from me.

Ber. I cannot love her, nor will strive to do't.

King. Thou wrong'st thyself, if thou should'st strive
 to choose.

Hel. That you are well restor'd, my lord, I'm glad :
 Let the rest go.— 449

King. My honour's at the stake ; which to defend,
 I must produce my power. Here, take her hand,
 Proud scornful boy, unworthy this good gift ;
 That dost in vile misprision shackle up
 My love, and her desert ; that canst not dream,
 We, poizing us in her defective scale,
 Shall weigh thee to the beam ; that wilt not know,
 It is in us to plant thine honour, where
 We please to have it grow. Check thy contempt :

Obey

Obey our will, which travels in thy good :
 Believe not thy disdain, but presently 460
 Do thine own fortunes that obedient right,
 Which both thy duty owes, and our power claims ;
 Or I will throw thee from my care for ever
 Into the staggers, and the careless lapse
 Of youth and ignorance ; both my revenge, and hate
 Loosing upon thee in the name of justice,
 Without all terms of pity. Speak ; thine answer.

Ber. Pardon, my gracious lord ; for I submit
 My fancy to your eyes. When I consider,
 What great creation, and what dole of honour 470
 Flies where you bid it ; I find, that she, which late
 Was in my nobler thoughts most base, is now
 The praised of the king ; who, so ennobled,
 Is, as 'twere, born so.

King. Take her by the hand,
 And tell her, she is thine : to whom I promise
 A counterpoize ; if not in thy estate,
 A balance more replete.

Ber. I take her hand.

King. Good fortune, and the favour of the king
 Smile upon this contract ; whose ceremony 481
 Shall seem expedient on the new-born brief,
 And be perform'd to-night ; the solemn feast
 Shall more attend upon the coming space,
 Expecting absent friends. As thou lov'st her,
 Thy love's to me religious ; else, does err.

[*Exeunt all but PAROLLES and LAFEU.*]

Laf. Do you hear, monsieur, a word with you.

Par.

Par. Your pleasure, sir?

Laf. Your lord and master did well to make his recantation. 490

Par. Recantation?—My ord? my master?

Laf. Ay; Is it not a language I speak?

Par. A most harsh one; and not to be understood without bloody succeeding. My master?

Laf. Are you companion to the count Rousillon?

Par. To any count; to all counts; to what is man.

Laf. To what is count's man; count's master is of another style.

Par. You are too old, sir; let it satisfy you, you are too old.— 501

Laf. I must tell thee, sirrah, I write man; to which title age cannot bring thee.

Par. What I dare too well do, I dare not do.

Laf. I did think thee, for two ordinaries, to be a pretty wise fellow; thou didst make tolerable vent of thy travel; it might pass; yet the scarfs and the bannerets about thee did manifoldly dissuade me from believing thee a vessel of too great a burden. I have now found thee; when I lose thee again, I care not: yet art thou good for nothing but taking up; and that thou art scarce worth. 512

Par. Hadst thou not the privilege of antiquity upon thee—

Laf. Do not plunge thyself too far in anger, lest thou hasten thy trial; which if—Lord have mercy on thee for a hen! So, my good window of lattice,

fare thee well; thy casement I need not open, I look through thee. Give me thy hand.

Par. My lord, you give me most egregious indignity. 521

Laf. Ay, with all my heart; and thou art worthy of it.

Par. I have not, my lord, deserv'd it.

Laf. Yes, good faith, every dram of it; and I will not 'bate thee a scruple.

Par. Well, I shall be wiser.—

Laf. E'en as soon as thou canst, for thou hast to pull at a smack o' the contrary. If ever thou be'st bound in thy scarf and beaten, thou shalt find what it is to be proud of thy bondage. I have a desire to hold my acquaintance with thee, or rather my knowledge, that I may say, in the default, he is a man I know. 534

Par. My lord, you do me most insupportable vexation.

Laf. I would, it were hell-pains for thy sake, and my poor doing eternal: for doing, I am past; as I will by thee, in what motion age will give me leave. [*Exit.*]

Par. Well, thou hast a son shall take this disgrace off me: scurvy, old, filthy, scurvy lord!—Well, I must be patient; there is no fettering of authority. I'll beat him, by my life, if I can meet him with any convenience, an he were double and double a lord. I'll have no more pity of his age, than I would have of—I'll beat him, an if I could but meet him again.

Re-enter LAFEU.

Laf. Sirrah, your lord and master's married, there's news for you : you have a new mistress. 549

Par. I most unfeignedly beseech your lordship to make some reservation of your wrongs. He is my good lord ; whom I serve above, is my master.

Laf. Who ? God ?

Par. Ay, sir.

Laf. The devil it is, that's thy master. Why dost thou garter up thy arms o' this fashion ? dost make hose of thy sleeves ? do other servants so ? Thou wert best set thy lower part where thy nose stands. By mine honour, if I were but two hours younger, I'd beat thee : methinks, thou art a general offence, and every man should beat thee. I think, thou was created for men to breathe themselves upon thee. 562

Par. This is hard and undeserved measure, my lord.

Laf. Go to, sir ; you were beaten in Italy for picking a kernel out of a pomegranate ; you are a vagabond, and no true traveller : you are more saucy with lords and honourable personages, than the heraldry of your birth and virtue gives you commission. You are not worth another word, else I'd call you knave. I leave you. [Exit,

Enter BERTRAM.

Par. Good, very good ; it is so then.—Good, very good ; let it be conceal'd a while. 572

Ber. Undone, and forfeited to cares for ever!

E i j

Par.

Par. What is the matter, sweet heart?

Ber. Altho' before the solemn priest I have sworn,
I will not bed her.

Par. What? what, sweet heart?

Ber. O my Parolles, they have married me :—
I'll to the Tuscan wars, and never bed her.

Par. France is a dog-hole, and it no more merits
The tread of a man's foot: to the wars! 581

Ber. There's letters from my mother; what the
import is,
I know not yet.

Par. Ay, that would be known: to the wars, my
boy, to the wars!

He wears his honour in a box, unseen,
That hugs his kicksy-wicksy here at home;
Spending his manly marrow in her arms,
Which should sustain the bound and high curvet
Of Mars's fiery steed: To other regions!
France is a stable; we that dwell in't, jades; 590
Therefore, to the war.

Ber. It shall be so; I'll send her to my house;
Acquaint my mother with my hate to her,
And wherefore I am fled; write to the king
That which I durst not speak. His present gift
Shall furnish me to those Italian fields,
Where noble fellows strike. War is no strife
To the dark house, and the detested wife.

Par. Will this capriccio hold in thee, art sure?

Ber. Go with me to my chamber, and advise me.
I'll send her straight away: To-morrow 601

I'll

I'll to the wars, she to her single sorrow.

Par. Why, these balls bound ; there's noise in it.—

'Tis hard ;

A young man, married, is a man that's marr'd :

Therefore away, and leave her bravely ; go :

The king has done you wrong : but, hush ! 'tis so.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

Enter HELENA, and Clown.

Hel. My mother greets me kindly ; Is she well ?

Clo. She is not well, but yet she has her health :
she's very merry ; but yet she's not well : but, thanks
be given, she's very well, and wants nothing i'the
world ; but yet she is not well. 611

Hel. If she be very well, what does she ail, that
she's not very well ?

Clo. Truly, she's very well, indeed, but for two
things.

Hel. What two things ?

Clo. One, that she's not in heaven, whither God
send her quickly ! the other, that she's in earth, from
whence God send her quickly !

Enter PAROLLES.

Par. Bless you my fortunate lady !

620

E i i j

Hel.

Hel. I hope sir, I have your good will to have mine own good fortune.

Par. You had my prayers to lead them on ; and to keep them on, have them still.—O, my knave, how does my old lady ?

Clo. So that you had her wrinkles, and I her money, I would, she did, as you say.

Par. Why, I say nothing.

Clo. Marry, you are the wiser man ; for many a man's tongue shakes out his master's undoing : To say nothing, to do nothing, to know nothing, and to have nothing, is to be a great part of your title ; which is within a very little of nothing. 633

Par. Away, thou'rt a knave.

Clo. You should have said, sir, before a knave, thou art a knave ; that's, before me thou art a knave : this had been truth, sir.

Par. Go to, thou art a witty fool, I have found thee.

Clo. Did you find me in yourself, sir ? or were you taught to find me ? The search, sir, was profitable ; and much fool may you find in you, even to the world's pleasure, and the increase of laughter. 643

Par. A good knave, i'faith, and well fed.—
Madam, my lord will go away to-night :
A very serious business calls on him.
The great prerogative and right of love,
Which, as your due, time claims, he doth acknow-
ledge ;
But puts it off by a compell'd restraint :

Whose

Whose want, and whose delay, is strew'd with sweets
Which they distil now in the curbed time, 651
To make the coming hour o'erflow with joy,
And pleasure drown the brim.

Hel. What's his will else?

Par. That you will take your instant leave o'the
king,

And make this haste as your own good proceeding,
Strengthen'd with what apology, you think,
May make it probable need.

Hel. What more commands he?

Par. That having this obtain'd, you presently
Attend his further pleasure. 661

Hel. In every thing I wait upon his will.

Par. I shall report it so. [*Exit PAROLLES.*

Hel. I pray you.—Come, sirrah. [*To Clown.*

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

Enter LAFEU, and BERTRAM.

Laf. But, I hope, your lordship thinks not him a
soldier.

Ber. Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof.

Laf. You have it from his own deliverance.

Ber. And by other warranted testimony.

Laf. Then my dial goes not true; I took this lark
for a bunting. 671

Ber.

Ber. I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in knowledge, and accordingly valiant.

Laf. I have then sinned against his experience, and transgress'd against his valour; and my state that way is dangerous, since I cannot yet find in my heart to repent: here he comes; I pray you, make us friends, I will pursue the amity.

Enter PAROLLES.

Par. These things shall be done, sir.

Laf. I pray you, sir, who's his tailor? 680

Par. Sir?

Laf. O, I know him well: Ay, sir, he, sir's, a good workman, a very good tailor.

Ber. Is she gone to the King? [*Aside to PAROL.*

Par. She is.

Ber. Will she away to-night?

Par. As you'll have her.

Ber. I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure,
Given orders for our horses; and to-night
When I should take possession of the bride— 690
And, ere I do begin—

Laf. A good traveller is something at the latter end of a dinner; but one that lies three thirds, and uses a known truth to pass a thousand nothings with, should be once heard, and thrice beaten.—God save you, captain.

Ber. Is there any unkindness between my lord and you, monsieur.

Par. I know not, how I have deserv'd to run into
my

my lord's displeasure. 700

Laf. You have made shift to run into't, boots and spurs and all, like him that leapt into the custard; and out of it you'll run again, rather than suffer question for your residence.

Ber. It may be, you have mistaken him, my lord.

Laf. And shall do so ever, though I took him at's prayers. Fare you well, my lord: and believe this of me, there can be no kernel in this light nut: the soul of this man is his clothes. Trust him not in matter of heavy consequence: I have kept of them tame, and know their natures. Farewel, monsieur, I have spoken better of you, than you have or will deserve at my hand; but we must do good against evil. [Exit.

Par. An idle lord, I swear.—

Ber. I think so.

Par. Why, do you not know him?

Ber. Yes, I know him well; and common speech Gives him a worthy pass. Here comes my clog. 719

Enter HELENA.

Hel. I have, sir, as I was commanded from you, Spoke with the king, and have procur'd his leave For present parting; only, he desires Some private speech with you.

Ber. I shall obey his will. You must not marvel, Helen, at my course, Which holds not colour with the time, nor does The ministration and required office

On my particular. Prepar'd I was not
 For such a business ; therefore am I found
 So much unsettled : This drives me to entreat you,
 That presently you take your way for home ; 731
 And rather muse, than ask, why I entreat you :
 For my respects are better than they seem ;
 And my appointments have in them a need
 Greater than shews itself at the first view,
 To you that know them not. This to my mother.

[Giving a Letter.

'Twill be two days ere I shall see you ; so
 I leave you to your wisdom.

Hel. Sir, I can nothing say,
 But that I am your most obedient servant. 740

Ber. Come, come, no more of that.

Hel. And ever shall
 With true observance seek to eke out That,
 Wherein toward me my homely stars have fail'd
 To equal my great fortune.

Ber. Let That go :
 My haste is very great. Farewel ; hie home.

Hel. Pray, sir, your pardon.

Ber. Well, what would you say ?

Hel. I am not worthy of the wealth I owe ; 750
 Nor dare I say, 'tis mine ; and yet it is ;
 But, like a timorous thief, most fain would steal
 What law does vouch mine own.

Ber. What would you have ?

Hel. Something, and scarce so much :——nothing,
 indeed.——

I would

I would not tell you what I would ; my lord—'faith,
yes ;—

Strangers and foes do sunder, and not kiss.

Ber. I pray you, stay not, but in haste to horse.

Hel. I shall not break your bidding, good my lord.

[*Exit* HELENA.

Ber. Where are my other men, monsieur ?—Fare-
wel. 760

Go thou toward home, where I will never come,
Whilst I can shake my sword, or hear the drum :—
Away, and for our flight.

Par. Bravely, coragio ! [*Exeunt.*

ACT III. SCENE I.

*The Duke's Court in Florence. Flourish. Enter the Duke
of Florence, two French Lords with Soldiers.*

Duke.

So that, from point to point, now have you heard
The fundamental reasons of this war ;
Whose great decision hath much blood let forth,
And more thirsts after.

1 *Lord.* Holy seems the quarrel
Upon your grace's part ; black and fearful
On the opposer.

Duke. Therefore we marvel much, our cousin
France

Would,

Would, in so just a business, shut his bosom
Against our borrowing prayers. 10

2 *Lord.* Good my lord,
The reasons of our state I cannot yield,
But like a common and an outward man,
That the great figure of a council frames
By self-unable motion: therefore dare not
Say what I think of it; since I have found
Myself in my incertain grounds to fail
As often as I gnest.

Duke. Be it his pleasure.

2 *Lord.* But I am sure, the younger of our nature.
That surfeit on their ease, will, day by day 21
Come here for physick.

Duke. Welcome shall they be;
And all the honours, that can fly from us,
Shall on them settle. You know your places well:
When better fall, for your avails they fell;
To-morrow, to the field. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Rousillon, in France. Enter Countess, and Clown.

Count. It hath happened all as I would have had it;
save that he comes not along with her. 29

Clo. By my troth, I take my young lord to be a
very melancholy man.

Count. By what observance, I pray you?

Clo. Why, he will look upon his boot, and sing ; mend the ruff, and sing ; ask questions, and sing ; pick his teeth, and sing. I knew a man that had this trick of melancholy, sold a goodly manor for a song.

Count. Let me see what he writes, and when he means to come. [*Reads the Letter.*

Clo. I have no mind to Isbel, since I was at court. Our old ling, and our Isbels o' the country, are nothing like your old ling, and your Isbels o' the court : the brain of my Cupid's knock'd out ; and I begin to love, as an old man loves money, with no stomach.

Count. What have we here ? 44

Clo. E'en that you have there. [*Exit.*

Countess reads a Letter.

I have sent you a daughter-in-law : she hath recovered the king, and undone me. I have wedded her, not bedded her ; and sworn to make the not eternal. You shall hear, I am run away ; know it, before the report come. If there be breadth enough in the world, I will hold a long distance. My duty to you. 51

Your unfortunate son,

BERTRAM.

This is not well, rash and unbridled boy,
To fly the favours of so good a king ;
To pluck his indignation on thy head,
By the misprizing of a maid, too virtuous
For the contempt of empire.

Re-enter Clown.

Clo. O madam, yonder is heavy news within, between two soldiers and my young lady. 60

Count. What is the matter?

Clo. Nay, there is some comfort in the news, some comfort; your son will not be kill'd so soon as I thought he would.

Count. Why should he be kill'd?

Clo. So say I, madam, if he run away, as I hear he does: the danger is in standing to't; that's the loss of men, though it be the getting of children. Here they come, will tell you more. For my part, I only hear, your son was run away. 70

Enter HELENA, and two Gentlemen.

1 Gen. Save you, good madam.

Hel. Madam, my lord is gone, for ever gone.—

2 Gen. Do not say so.

Count. Think upon patience.—'Pray you, gentlemen—

I have felt so many quirks of joy and grief,
That the first face of neither, on the start,
Can woman me unto't. Where is my son, I pray
you?

2 Gen. Madam, he's gone to serve the duke of
Florence.

We met him thitherward; for thence we came,
And, after some dispatch in hand at court, 80
Thither we bend again.

Hel. Look on this letter, madam; here's my passport.

When thou canst get the ring upon my finger, which never shall come off; and shew me a child begotten of thy body that I am father to, then call me husband: but in such a Then I write a Never!

This is a dreadful sentence.

Count. Brought you this letter, gentlemen?

1 Gen. Ay, madam; 90

And for the contents' sake, are sorry for our pains.

Count. I pr'ythee, lady, have a better cheer:
If thou engrossest all the griefs as thine,
Thou robb'st me of a moiety: He was my son;
But I do wash his name out of my blood,
And thou art all my child. Towards Florence is he?

2 Gen. Ay, madam.

Count. And to be a soldier?

2 Gen. Such is his noble purpose: and, believe't,
The Duke will lay upon him all the honour 100
That good convenience claims.

Count. Return you thither?

1 Gent. Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of speed.

Hel. 'Till I have no wife, I have nothing in France!
'Tis bitter. [Reading.]

Count. Find you that there?

Hel. Ay, madam.

1 Gen. 'Tis but the boldness of his hand, haply,
which

His heart was not consenting to.

Count. Nothing in France, until he have no wife!
There's nothing here, that is too good for him, 111
But only she; and she deserves a lord,
That twenty such rude boys might tend upon,
And call her hourly, mistress. Who was with him?

1 *Gen.* A servant only, and a gentleman
Which I have some time known.

Count. Parolles, was't not?

1 *Gen.* Ay, my good lady, he.

Count. A very tainted fellow, and full of wicked-
ness:

My son corrupts a well-derived nature 120
With his inducement.

1 *Gen.* Indeed, good lady,
The fellow has a deal of that too much,
Which holds him much to have.

Count. You are welcome, gentlemen.
I will entreat you, when you see my son,
To tell him, that his sword can never win
The honour that he loses: more I'll entreat you
Written to bear along.

2 *Gen.* We serve you, madam, 130
In that and all your worthiest affairs.

Count. Not so, but as we change our courtesies.
Will you draw near? [*Exeunt Countess and Gentlemen.*]

Hel. 'Till I have no wife, I have nothing in France!
Nothing in France, until he has no wife!
Thou shalt have none, Rousillon, none in France,
Then hast thou all again. Poor lord! is't I

That

That chase thee from thy country, and expose
Those tender limbs of thine to the event
Of the none-sparing war? and is it I, 140
That drive thee from the sportive court, where thou
Was shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark
Of smoky muskets? O you leaden messengers,
That ride upon the violent speed of fire,
Fly with false aim; move the still-piercing air,
That sings with piercing, do not touch my lord!
Whoever shoots at him, I set him there.
Whoever charges on his forward breast,
I am the caitiff, that do hold him to it;
And, tho' I kill him not, I am the cause 150
His death was so effected. Better 'twere,
I met the ravening lion when he roar'd
With sharp constraint of hunger; better 'twere,
That all the miseries, which nature owes,
Were mine at once. No, come thou home, Rousillon;
Whence honour but of danger wins a scar;
As oft it loses all. I will be gone:
My being here it is, that holds thee hence.
Shall I stay here to do't? no, no, although
The air of paradise did fan the house, 160
And angels offic'd all: I will be gone;
That pitiful rumour may report my flight,
To console thine ear. Come, night! end, day!
For, with the dark, poor thief, I'll steal away.
[Exit.]

SCENE III.

The Duke's Court in Florence. Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, BERTRAM, Drum and Trumpets, Soldiers, PAROLLES.

Duke. The general of our horse thou art ; and we,
Great in our hope, lay our best love and credence
Upon thy promising fortune.

Ber. Sir, it is
A charge too heavy for my strength ; but yet
We'll strive to bear it for your worthy sake, 170
To the extreme edge of hazard.

Duke. Then go forth,
And Fortune play upon thy prosperous helm,
As thy auspicious mistress !

Ber. This very day,
Great Mars, I put myself into thy file :
Make me but like my thoughts, and I shall prove
A lover of thy drum, hater of love. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

Rousillon in France. Enter Countess and Steward.

Count. Alas ! and would you take the letter of her ?
Might you not know, she would do, as she has done,
By sending me a letter ? Read it again. 181

LETTER.

L E T T E R.

Stew. *I am St. Jaques' pilgrim, thither gone ;
Ambitious love hath so in me offended,
That bare-foot plod I the cold ground upon,
With sainted vow my faults to have amended.
Write, write, that, from the bloody course of war
My dearest master, your dear son, may lie ;
Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far
His name with zealous fervour sanctify.*

His taken labours bid him me forgive ; 190
*I, his despightful Juno, sent him forth
From courtly friends, with camping foes to live ;
Where death and danger dog the heels of worth.
He is too good and fair for death and me,
Whom I myself embrace to set him free.*

Ah, what sharp stings are in her mildest words ?—
Rinaldo, you did never lack advice so much,
As letting her pass so ; had I spoke with her,
I could have well diverted her intents,
Which thus she hath prevented. 200

Stew. Pardon me, madam :
If I had given you this at over-night
She might have been o'er-ta'en ; and yet she writes,
Pursuit would be but vain.

Count. What angel shall
Bless this unworthy husband ? he cannot thrive,
Unless her prayers, whom heaven delights to hear,
And loves to grant, reprieve him from the wrath

Of

Of greatest justice. Write, write, Rinaldo,
 To this unworthy husband of his wife ; 210
 Let every word weigh heavy of her worth,
 That he does weigh too light : my greatest grief,
 Tho' little he do feel it, set down sharply.
 Dispatch the most convenient messenger :—
 When, haply, he shall hear that she is gone,
 He will return ; and hope I may, that she,
 Hearing so much, will speed her foot again,
 Led hither by pure love. Which of them both
 Is dearest to me, I have no skill in sense
 To make distinction : Provide this messenger :— 220
 My heart is heavy, and mine age is weak ;
 Grief would have tears, sorrow bids me speak.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

*Without the Walls of Florence. A Tucket afar off. Enter
 an old Widow of Florence, DIANA, VIOLENTA, and
 MARIANA, with other Citizens.*

Wid. Nay, come ; for if they do approach the city,
 we shall lose all the sight.

Dia. They say, the French count has done most
 honourable service.

Wid. It is reported that he has ta'en their greatest
 commander ; and that with his own hand he slew the
 duke's brother. We have lost our labour, they are
gone

gone a contrary way : hark ! you may know by their trumpets. 231

Mar. Come, let's return again, and suffice ourselves with the report of it. Well, Diana, take heed of this French earl : the honour of a maid is her name ; and no legacy is so rich as honesty.

Wid. I have told my neighbour, how you have been solicited by a gentleman his companion. 237

Mar. I know the knave (hang him !) one Parolles : a filthy officer he is in those suggestions for the young earl. Beware of them, Diana ; their promises, enticements, oaths, tokens, and all these engines of lust, are not the things they go under : many a maid hath been seduced by them ; and the misery is, example, that so terrible shews in the wreck of maidenhood, cannot for all that dissuade succession, but that they are limed with the twigs that threaten them. I hope, I need not to advise you further ; but, I hope, your own grace will keep you where you are, though there were no further danger known, but the modesty which is so lost. 250

Dia. You shall not need to fear me.

Enter HELENA, disguis'd like a Pilgrim.

Wid. I hope so——Look, here comes a pilgrim ; I know, she will lie at my house : thither they send one another. I'll question her :

God save you, pilgrim ! Whither are you bound ?

Hel. To St. Jacques le Grand.

Where do the palmers lodge, I do beseech you ?

Wid.

Wid. At the St. Francis here, beside the port.

Hel. Is this the way? [*A March afar off.*]

Wid. Ay, marry, is it. Hark you! 260

They come this way:—If you will tarry, holy pilgrim,

But 'till the troops come by,

I will conduct you where you shall be lodg'd;

The rather, for, I think, I know your hostess

As ample as myself.

Hel. Is it yourself?

Wid. If you shall please so, pilgrim.

Hel. I thank you, and will stay upon your leisure.

Wid. You came, I think, from France.

Hel. I did so. 270

Wid. Here you shall see a countryman of your's,
That has done worthy service.

Hel. His name, I pray you?

Dia. The count Rousillon: Know you such a one?

Hel. But by the ear, that hears most nobly of him?
His face I know not.

Dia. Whatsoe'er he is,

He's bravely taken here. He stole from France,

As 'tis reported; for the king had married him

Against his liking. Think you it is so? 280

Hel. Ay, surely, meer the truth; I know his lady.

Dia. There is a gentleman, that serves the count,
Reports but coarsely of her.

Hel. What's his name?

Dia. Monsieur Parolles.

Hel. Oh, I believe with him,

In argument of praise, or to the worth
Of the great count himself, she is too mean
To have her name repeated ; all her deserving
Is a reserved honesty, and that 290
I have not heard examin'd.

Dia. Alas, poor lady !
'Tis a hard bondage, to become the wife
Of a detesting lord.

Wid. Ay ! right : good creature ! wheresoe'er she is
Her heart weighs sadly : this young maid might do
her

A shrew'd turn, if she pleas'd.

Hel. How do you mean ?
May be, the amorous count solicits her
In the unlawful purpose. 300

Wid. He does, indeed ;
And brokes with all, that can in such a suit
Corrupt the tender honour of a maid :
But she is arm'd for him, and keeps her guard
In honestest defence.

*Enter with Drum and Colours, BERTRAM, PAROLLES,
Officers and Soldiers attending.*

Mar. The gods forbid else !

Wid. So, now they come :——
That is Antonio, the duke's eldest son ;
That, Escalus.

Hel. Which is the Frenchman ? 310

Dia. He ;

That

That with the plume : 'tis a most gallant fellow ;
 I would, he lov'd his wife : if he were honest,
 He were much goodlier.—Is't not a handsome gentle-
 man ?

Hel. I like him well.

Dia. 'Tis pity, he is not honest : yond's that same
 knave,

That leads him to these places, were I his lady,
 I'd poison that vile rascal.

Hel. Which is he ?

Dia. That jack-an-apes with scarfs. Why is he
 melancholy ? 321

Hel. Perchance he's hurt i' the battle.

Par. Lose our drum ! well.—

Mar. He's shrewdly vex'd at something. Look,
 he has spied us.

Wid. Marry, hang you !

[*Exeunt* BERTRAM, PAROLLES, &c.]

Mar. And your courtesy, for a ring-carrier !—

Wid. The troop is past : Come, pilgrim, I will
 bring you,

Where you shall host : Of enjoin'd penitents
 There's four or five, to great St. Jaques bound, 330
 Already at my house.

Hel. I humbly thank you :
 Please it this matron, and this gentle maid
 To eat with us to-night, the charge and thanking
 Shall be for me ; and to requite you further,
 I will bestow some precepts on this virgin

Worthy

Worthy the note.

Both. We'll take your offer kindly. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.

Enter BERTRAM, and the two French Lords.

1 Lord. Nay, good my lord, put him to't; let him have his way. 340

2 Lord. If your lordship find him not a hilding, hold me no more in your respect.

1 Lord. On my life, my lord, a bubble.

Ber. Do you think, I am so far deceiv'd in him?

1 Lord. Believe it my lord, in mine own direct knowledge, without any malice, but to speak of him as my kinsman; he's a most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker, the owner of no one good quality worthy your lordship's entertainment. 350

2 Lord. It were fit you knew him; lest, reposing too far in his virtue, which he hath not, he might at some great and trusty business, in a main danger, fail you.

Ber. I would, I knew in what particular action to try him.

2 Lord. None better than to let him fetch off his drum, which you hear him so confidently undertake to do. 359

1 Lord. I, with a troop of Florentines, will suddenly surprise him; such I will have, whom, I am sure,

he knows not from the enemy : we will bind and hood-wink him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the leaguer of the adversaries, when we bring him to our own tents: Be but your lordship present at his examination ; if he do not, for the promise of his life, and in the highest compulsion of base fear, offer to betray you, and deliver all the intelligence in his power against you, and that with the divine forfeit of his soul upon oath, never trust my judgment in any thing. 371

2 *Lord.* O, for the love of laughter, let him fetch his drum ; he says, he has a stratagem for't : when your lordship sees the bottom of his success in't, and to what metal his counterfeit lump of ore will be melted, if you give him not John Drum's entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed. Here he comes.

Enter PAROLLES.

1 *Lord.* O, for the love of laughter, hinder not the humour of his design ; let him fetch off his drum in any hand. 381

Ber. How now, monsieur ? this drum sticks sorely in your disposition.

2 *Lord.* A pox on't, let it go ; 'tis but a drum.

Par. But a drum ! Is't but a drum ? A drum so lost ! There was an excellent command ! to charge in with our horse upon our own wings, and to rend our own soldiers.

2 *Lord.* That was not to be blamed in the command
of

of the service; it was a disaster of war that Cæsar himself could not have prevented, if he had been there to command. 392

Ber. Well, we cannot greatly condemn our success: some dishonour we had in the loss of that drum; but it is not to be recover'd.

Par. It might have been recover'd.

Ber. It might; but it is not now.

Par. It is to be recover'd: but that the merit of service is seldom attributed to the true and exact performer, I would have that drum or another, or *hic jacet*—— 401

Ber. Why, if you have a stomach to't, monsieur, if you think your mystery in stratagem can bring this instrument of honour again into its native quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprize, and go on; I will grace the attempt for a worthy exploit: if you speed well in it, the duke shall both speak of it, and extend to you what further becomes his greatness, even to the utmost syllable of your worthiness. 409

Par. By the hand of a soldier, I will undertake it.

Ber. But you must not now slumber in it.

Par. I'll about it this evening: and I will presently pen down my dilemma's, encourage myself in my certainty, put myself into my mortal preparation; and, by midnight, look to hear further from me.

Ber. May I be bold to acquaint his grace, you are gone about it?

Par. I know not what the success will be, my lord; but the attempt I vow.

Ber. I know thou art valiant; and, to the possibility

bility of thy soldiership, will subscribe for thee.
Farewel. 422

Par. I love not many words. [*Exit.*]

1 Lord. No more than a fish loves water.—Is not this a strange fellow, my lord, that so confidently seems to undertake this business, which he knows is not to be done ; damns himself to do, and dares better be damn'd than do't ?

2 Lord. You do not know him, my lord, as we do : certain it is, that he will steal himself into a man's favour, and, for a week escape a great deal of discoveries : but when you find him out, you have him ever after. 433

Ber. Why, do you think, he will make no deed at all of this, that so seriously he does address himself unto ?

2 Lord. None in the world ; but return with an invention, and clap upon you two or three probable lies ; but we have almost imboss'd him, you shall see his fall to-night ; for, indeed, he is not for your lordship's respect. 441

1 Lord. We'll make you some sport with the fox, ere we case him. He was first smok'd by the old lord Lafeu : when his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall find him ; which you shall see, this very night.

2 Lord. I must go and look my twigs ; he shall be caught.

Ber. Your brother, he shall go along with me. 449

2 Lord.

2 Lord. As't please your lordship. I'll leave you.

[Exit.

Ber. Now will I lead you to the house, and shew you
The lass I spoke of.

1 Lord. But you say, she's honest.

Ber. That's all the fault: I spoke with her but once,
And found her wondrous cold; but I sent to her,
By this same coxcomb that we have i' the wind,
Tokens and letters, which she did re-send;
And this is all I have done: She's a fair creature;
Will you go see her? 459

1 Lord. With all my heart, my lord. [Exeunt.

SCENE VII.

Florence. The Widow's House. Enter HELENA, and
Widow.

Hel. If you misdoubt me that I am not she,
I know not how I shall assure you further;
But I shall lose the grounds I work upon.

Wid. Tho' my estate be fallen, I was well born,
Nothing acquainted with these businesses;
And would not put my reputation now
In any staining act.

Hel. Nor would I wish you.
First, give me trust, the count he is my husband;
And, what to your sworn council I have spoken, 470
Is so, from word to word; and then you cannot,
By the good aid that I of you shall borrow,

Err in bestowing it.

Wid. I should believe you;
For you have shew'd me that, which well approves
You are great in fortune.

Hel. Take this purse of gold,
And let me buy your friendly help thus far,
Which I will over-pay, and pay again
When I have found it. The gentle count he wooes
your daughter, 480

Lays down his wanton siege before her beauty,
Resolves to carry her; let her, in fine, consent,
As we'll direct her how 'tis best to bear it.
Now his important blood will nought deny,
That she'll demand: A ring the county wears
That downward hath succeeded in his house
From son to son, some four or five descents,
Since the first father wore it. This ring he holds
In most rich choice; yet, in his idle fire,
To buy his will, it would not seem too dear, 490
Howe'er repented after.

Wid. Now I see the bottom of your purpose.

Hel. You see it lawful then. It is no more.
But that your daughter, ere she seems as won,
Desires this ring; appoints him an encounter;
In fine, delivers me to fill the time,
Herself most chastly absent; after this,
To marry her, I'll add three thousand crowns
To what is past already.

Wid. I have yielded: 500
Instruct my daughter how she shall persevere,
That

That time and place, with this deceit so lawful,
May prove coherent. Every night he comes
With musick of all sorts, and songs compos'd
To her unworthiness : it nothing steads us
To chide him from our eaves ; for he persists,
As if his life lay on't.

Hel. Why then, to-night
Let us assay our plot ; which, if it speed,
Is wicked meaning in a lawful deed ; 510
And lawful meaning in a lawful act ;
Where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact.
But let's about it. — [*Exeunt.*

ACT IV. SCENE I.

*Part of the French Camp in Florence. Enter one of the
French Lords, with five or six Soldiers in Ambush.*

Lord.

HE can come no other way but by this hedge corner : When you sally upon him, speak what terrible language you will ; though you understand it not yourselves, no matter : for we must not seem to understand him, unless some one amongst us, whom we must produce for an interpreter.

Sol. Good captain, let me be the interpreter.

Lord. Art not acquainted with him ? knows he not thy voice ?

Sol. No, sir, I warrant you. 10

Lord.

Lord. But what linsey-woolsey hast thou to speak to us as again?

Sol. Even such as you speak to me.

Lord. He must think us some band of strangers i' the adversary's entertainment. Now he hath a smack of all neighbouring languages; therefore we must every one be a man of his own fancy, not to know, what we speak one to another; so we seem to know, is to know straight our purpose: chough's language, gabble enough, and good enough. As for you, interpreter, you must seem very politick. But couch, ho! here he comes; to beguile two hours in a sleep, and then to return and swear the lies he forges. 23

Enter PAROLLES.

Par. Ten o'clock: within these three hours 'twill be time enough to go home. What shall I say, I have done? It must be a very plausible invention that carries it. They begin to smoke me; and disgraces have of late knock'd too often at my door. I find, my tongue is too fool-hardy; but my heart hath the fear of Mars before it, and of his creatures, not daring the reports of my tongue. 31

Lord. This is the first truth that e'er thine own tongue was guilty of. [*Aside.*]

Par. What the devil should move me to undertake the recovery of this drum; being not ignorant of the impossibility, and knowing I had no such purpose? I must give myself some hurts, and say I got them in exploit: yet slight ones will not carry it. They will say,

: : YX :

: XX : : XX : : X

say, came you off with so little? and great ones I dare not give; Wherefore? what's the instance? Tongue, I must put you into a butter-woman's mouth, and buy another of Bajazet's mule, if you prattle me into these perils. 43

Lord. Is it possible he should know what he is, and be that he is? [Aside.

Par. I would, the cutting of my garments would serve the turn, or the breaking of my Spanish sword.

Lord. We cannot afford you so. [Aside.

Par. Or the baring of my beard; and to say, it was in stratagem. 50

Lord. 'Twould not do. [Aside.

Par. Or to drown my clothes, and say, I was stript.

Lord. Hardly serve. [Aside.

Par. Though I swore I leap'd from the window of the citadel—

Lord. How deep? [Aside.

Par. Thirty fathom.

Lord. Three great oaths would scarce make that be believ'd. [Aside.

Par. I would, I had any drum of the enemies; I would swear, I recover'd it. 61

Lord. You shall hear one anon. [Aside.

Par. A drum now of the enemies! [Alarum within.

Lord. *Throcamousus, cargo, cargo, cargo.*

All. *Crage, crage, villianda par corbo, cargo.*

Par. Oh! ransom, ransom:—do not hide mine eyes. [They seize him and blindfold him.

Inter. *Boskos thromuldo boskos.*

Par.

Par. I know you are the Musko's regiment.
 And I shall lose my life for want of language. 70
 If there be here German, or Dane, low Dutch,
 Italian, or French, let him speak to me,
 I'll discover that which shall undo the Florentine.

Inter. Boskos vauvado :—
 I understand thee, and can speak thy tongue :—
*Kerelybonto :—*Sir,
 Betake thee to thy faith, for seventeen poniards
 Are at thy bosom.

Par. Oh !
Inter. Oh, pray, pray, pray. 80
Mancha revania dulce.

Lord. Osceoribi dulchos volivorco.
Inter. The general is content to spare thee yet ;
 And, hood-winkt as thou art, will lead thee on
 To gather from thee. Haply, thou may'st inform
 Something to save thy life.

Par. Oh let me live,
 And all the secrets of our camp I'll shew,
 Their force, their purposes : nay, I'll speak that
 Which you will wonder at. 90

Inter. But wilt thou faithfully ?

Par. If I do not, damn me.

Inter. Acordo linta.
 Come on, thou art granted space. [*Exit with PAR.*

[*A short Alarum within.*

Lord. Go, tell the count Rousillon and my brother
 We have caught the woodcock, and will keep him
 muffled

'Till

'Till we do hear from them.

Sol. Captain, I will.

Lord. He will betray us all unto ourselves,
Inform 'em that. 100

Sol. So I will, sir.

Lord. 'Till then I'll keep him dark, and safely
lockt. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

The Widow's House. Enter BERTRAM, and DIANA.

Ber. They told me that your name was Fontibell.

Dia. No, my good lord, Diana.

Ber. Titled goddess,
And worth it with addition ! But, fair soul,
In your fine frame hath love no quality ?
If the quick fire of youth light not your mind,
You are no maiden, but a monument :
When you are dead, you should be such a one 110
As you are now, for you are cold and stern ;
And now you should be as your mother was,
When your sweet self was got.

Dia. She then was honest.

Ber. So should you be.

Dia. No.

My mother did but duty ; such, my lord,
As you owe to your wife.

Ber. No more of that !

I pr'ythee, do not strive against my vows : 120

I was

I was compell'd to her ; but I love thee
By love's own sweet constraint, and will for ever
Do thee all rights of service.

Dia. Ay, so you serve us,
'Till we serve you : but when you have our roses,
You barely leave our thorns to prick ourselves,
And mock us with our bareness.

Ber. How have I sworn ?

Dia. 'Tis not the many oaths, that make the truth,
But the plain single vow, that is vow'd true 130
What is not holy, that we swear not 'bides,
But take the Highest to witness : Then, pray you tell
me,

If I should swear by Jove's great attributes
I lov'd you dearly, would you believe my oaths,
When I did love you ill ? this has no holding,
To swear by him whom I protest to love,
That I will work against him. Therefore your oaths
Are words, and poor conditions but unseal'd ;
At least, in my opinion.

Ber. Change it, change it : 140
Be not so holy-cruel. Love is holy ;
And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts,
That you do charge men with : Stand no more off,
But give thyself unto my sick desire,
Who then recovers. Say, thou art mine ; and ever
My love, as it begins, shall so persevere.

Dia. I see, that men make hopes in such affairs
That we'll forsake ourselves. Give me that ring,

Ber. I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no power
To

To give it from me. 150

Dia. Will you not, my lord?

Ber. It is an honour 'longing to our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors;
Which were the greatest obloquy i' the world
In me to lose.

Dia. Mine honour's such a ring:
My chastity's the jewel of our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors;
Which were the greatest obloquy i' the world
In me to lose. Thus your own proper wisdom 160
Brings in the champion honour on my part,
Against your vain assault.

Ber. Here, take my ring:
My house, mine honour, yea, my life be thine,
And I'll be bid by thee.

Dia. When midnight comes, knock at my chamber
window;
I'll order take, my mother shall not hear.
Now will I charge you in the band of truth,
When you have conquer'd my yet maiden-bed,
Remain there but an hour, nor speak to me: 170
My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them,
When back again this ring shall be deliver'd:
And on your finger, in the night, I'll put
Another ring; that, what in time proceeds,
May token to the future our past deeds.
Adieu, 'till then; then, fail not: You have won
A wife of me, tho' there my hope be done.

H

Ber.

Ber. A heaven on earth I have won by wooing thee. [Exit.

Dia. For which live long to thank both heaven and me!

You may so in the end.— 180

My mother told me just how he would woo,
As if she sat in his heart; she says, all men
Have the like oaths: he had sworn to marry me,
When his wife's dead; therefore I'll lie with him,
When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braid,
Marry that will, I'll live and die a maid:
Only, in this disguise, I think't no sin
To cozen him, that would unjustly win. [Exit.

SCENE III.

The Florentine Camp. Enter the two French Lords, and two or three Soldiers.

1 Lord. You have not given him his mother's letter? 189

2 Lord. I have deliver'd it an hour since: there is something in't that stings his nature; for, on the reading it, he chang'd almost into another man.

1 Lord. He has much worthy blame laid upon him, for shaking off so good a wife, and so sweet a lady.

2 Lord. Especially, he hath incurred the everlasting displeasure of the king, who had even tun'd his bounty to sing happiness to him. I will tell you a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you.

1 Lord.

1 *Lord.* When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I
am the grave of it. 200

2 *Lord.* He hath perverted a young gentlewoman
here in Florence, of a most chaste renown; and this
night he fleshes his will in the spoil of her honour:
he hath given her his monumental ring, and thinks
himself made in the unchaste composition.

1 *Lord.* Now God delay our rebellion; as we are
ourselves, what things are we!

2 *Lord.* Meerly our own traitors. And, as in the
common course of all treasons, we still see them re-
veal themselves, 'till they attain to their abhorr'd ends;
so he, that in this action contrives against his own
nobility, in his proper stream o'erflows himself.

1 *Lord.* Is it not meant damnable in us to be the
trumpeters of our unlawful intents? We shall not
then have his company to-night?

2 *Lord.* Not 'till after midnight; for he is dieted
to his hour.

1 *Lord.* That approaches apace: I would gladly
have him see his company anatomiz'd; that he might
take a measure of his own judgment, wherein so cu-
riously he hath set this counterfeit. 221

2 *Lord.* We will not meddle with him, 'till he come;
for his presence must be the whip of the other.

1 *Lord.* In the mean time, what hear you of these
wars?

2 *Lord.* I hear, there is an overture of peace.

1 *Lord.* Nay, I assure you, a peace concluded.

2 *Lord.* What will count Rousillon do then? will

he travel higher, or return again into France?

1 Lord. I perceive by this demand, you are not altogether of his council. 231

2 Lord. Let it be forbid, sir! so should I be a great deal of his act.

2 Lord. Sir, his wife some two months since fled from his house; her pretence is a pilgrimage to St. Jaques le Grand; which holy undertaking, with most austere sanctimony, she accomplish'd: and there residing, the tenderness of her nature became as a prey to her grief; in fine, made a groan of her last breath, and now she sings in heaven. 240

2 Lord. How is this justified?

1 Lord. The stronger part of it by her own letters; which makes her story true, even to the point of her death: her death itself (which could not be her office to say, is come) was faithfully confirm'd by the rector of the place.

2 Lord. Hath the count all this intelligence?

1 Lord. Ay, and the particular confirmations, point from point, to the full arming of the verity.

2 Lord. I am heartily sorry, that he'll be glad of this. 251

1 Lord. How mightily, sometimes, we make us comforts of our losses!

2 Lord. And how mightily, some other times, we drown our gain in tears! the great dignity, that his valour hath here acquired for him, shall at home be encounter'd with a shame as ample.

1 Lord. The web of our life is of a mingled yarn,
good

good and ill together: our virtues would be proud, if our faults whipp'd them not; and our crimes would despair, if they were not cherish'd by our virtues.—

Enter a Servant.

How now? where's your master? 262

Serv. He met the duke in the street, sir, of whom he hath taken a solemn leave: his lordship will next morning for France. The duke hath offered him letters of commendations to the king.

2 *Lord.* They shall be no more than needful there, if they were more than they can commend.

Enter BERTRAM.

1 *Lord.* They cannot be too sweet for the king's tartness. Here's his lordship now. How now, my lord, is't not after midnight? 271

Ber. I have to-night dispatch'd sixteen businesses, a month's length a-piece, by an abstract of success: I have congied with the duke, done my adieu with his nearest; buried a wife, mourn'd for her; writ to my lady mother, I am returning; entertain'd my convoy; and, between these main parcels of dispatch, effected many nicer deeds: the last was the greatest, but that I have not ended yet.

2 *Lord.* If the business be of any difficulty, and this morning your departure hence, it requires haste of your lordship. 282

Ber. I mean, the business is not ended, as fearing to hear of it hereafter. But shall we have this dialogue

H i i j

between

between the fool and the soldier? Come, bring forth this counterfeit module; he has deceiv'd me, like a double-meaning prophet.

2 *Lord.* Bring him forth: He has sat in the stocks all night, poor gallant knave.

Ber. No matter; his heels have deserv'd it, in usurping his spurs so long. How does he carry himself? 292

1 *Lord.* I have told your lordship already: the stocks carry him. But to answer you as you would be understood: he weeps like a wench that had shed her milk: he hath confess'd himself to Morgan, whom he supposes to be a friar, from the time of his remembrance to this very instant disaster of his sitting i'the stocks; and what, think you, he hath confest?

Ber. Nothing of me, has he? 300

2 *Lord.* His confession is taken, and it shall be read to his face; if your lordship be in't, as, I believe you are, you must have the patience to hear it.

Re-enter Soldiers with PAROLLES.

Ber. A plague upon him! muffled! he can say nothing of me; hush! hush!

1 *Lord.* Hoodman comes: *Partotartarossa.*

Inter. He calls for the tortures; What, will you say without 'em?

Par. I will confess what I know without constraint; if ye pinch me like a pasty, I can say no more.

Inter. *Bosko Chimurcho.*

311

2 *Lord.*

2 Lord. *Boblibindo chicurmurco.*

Inter. You are a merciful general. Our general bids you answer to what I shall ask you out of a note.

Par. And truly, as I hope to live.

Inter. First demand of him, how many horse the duke is strong. What say you to that?

Par. Five or six thousand ; but very weak and unserviceable : the troops are all scatter'd, and the commanders very poor rogues ; upon my reputation and credit, and as I hope to live. 321

Inter. Shall I set down your answer so?

Par. Do : I'll take the sacrament on't, how and which way you will : all's one to him.

Ber. What a past-saving slave is this !

1 Lord. You are deceiv'd, my lord ; this is monsieur Parolles, the gallant militarist (that was his own phrase) that had the whole theory of war in the knot of his scarf, and the practice in the chape of his dagger. 330

2 Lord. I will never trust a man again for keeping his sword clean ; nor believe, he can have every thing in him, by wearing his apparel neatly.

Inter. Well, that's set down.

Par. Five or six thousand horse I said (I will say true), or thereabouts, set down ; for I'll speak truth.

1 Lord. He's very near the truth in this.

Ber. But I con him no thanks for't, in the nature he delivers it.

Par. Poor rogues, I pray you, say. 340

Inter. Well, that's set down.

Par.

Par. I humbly thank you, sir: a truth's a truth, the rogues are marvellous poor.

Inter. Demand of him, of what strength they are a-foot. What say you to that?

Par. By my troth, sir, if I were to live this present hour, I will tell true. Let me see: Spurio a hundred and fifty, Sebastian so many, Corambus so many, Jaques so many; Guiltian, Cosmo, Lodowick, and Gratii, two hundred fifty each; mine own company, Chitopher, Vaumond, Bentii, two hundred and fifty each: so that the muster file, rotten and sound, upon my life amounts not to fifteen thousand poll; half of the which dare not shake the snow from off their cassocks, lest they shake themselves to pieces.

Ber. What shall be done to him?

1 Lord. Nothing, but let him have thanks. Demand of him my conditions, and what credit I have with the duke. 359

Inter. Well, that's set down. You shall demand of him, whether one captain Dumain be i'the camp, a Frenchman: what his reputation is with the duke, what his valour, honesty, and expertness in war; or whether he thinks, it were not possible with well-weighing sums of gold to corrupt him to a revolt. What say you to this? what do you know of it?

Par. I beseech you, let me answer to the particular of the interrogatories. Demand them singly.

Inter. Do you know this captain Dumain? 369

Par. I know him: he was a botcher's 'prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipp'd for getting the sheriff's

us, fi, 2is,

U 'suz' U 'suz' U

sheriff's fool with child ; a dumb innocent, that could not say him, *nay*.

[DUMAIN lifts up his Hand in Anger.

Ber. Nay, by your leave, hold your hands ; tho' I know, his brains are forfeit to the next tile that falls.

Inter. Well, is this captain in the duke of Florence's camp ?

Par. Upon my knowledge, he is, and lousy.

1 Lord. Nay, look not so upon me ; we shall hear of your lordship anon. 380

Inter. What is his reputation with the duke ?

Par. The duke knows him for no other but a poor officer of mine ; and writ to me the other day to turn him out o'the band. I think, I have his letter in my pocket.

Inter. Marry, we'll search.

Par. In good sadness, I do not know ; either it is there, or it is upon the file, with the duke's other letters, in my tent.

Inter. Here 'tis ; here's a paper, shall I read it to you ? 391

Par. I do not know, if it be it, or no.

Ber. Our Interpreter does it well.

1 Lord. Excellently.

Inter. Dian. *The count's a fool, and full of gold.*

Par. That is not the duke's letter, sir ; that is an advertisement to a proper maid in Florence, one Diana, to take heed of the allurements of one count Rousillon, a foolish idle boy, but, for all that, very ruttish. I pray you, sir, put it up again. 400

Inter.

Inter. Nay, I'll read it first, by your favour.

Par. My meaning in't, I protest, was very honest in the behalf of the maid: for I knew the young count to be a dangerous and lascivious boy, who is a whale to virginity, and devours up all the fry it finds.

Ber. Damnable! both sides rogue.

Interpreter reads the Letter.

When he swears oaths, bid him drop gold, and take it.

After he scores, he never pays the score:

Half won, is match well made; match, and well make it:

He ne'er pays after-debts; take it before;

411

And say, a soldier (Dian) told thee this:

Men are to mell with, boys are but to kiss.

For, count of this, the count's a fool, I know it;

Who pays before, but not when he does owe it.

Thine, as he vow'd to thee in thine ear,

PAROLLES.

Ber. He shall be whip'd thro' the army with this rhyme in his forehead.

Lord. This is your devoted friend, sir, the manifold linguist, and the armi-potent soldier. 421

Ber. I could endure any thing before but a cat, and now he's a cat to me.

Inter. I perceive, sir, by the general's looks, we shall be fain to hang you.

Par.

Par. My life, sir, in any case : not that I am afraid to die ; but that my offences being many, I would repent out the remainder of nature. Let me live, sir, in a dungeon, i'the stocks, any where, so I may live.

Inter. We'll say what may be done, so you confess freely ; therefore, once more, to this captain Dumain : you have answer'd to his reputation with the duke, and to his valour : What is he honestly ? 433

Par. He will steal, sir, an egg out of a cloister ; for rapes and ravishments he parallels Nessus. He professes no keeping of oaths ; in breaking them he is stronger than Hercules. He will lie, sir, with such volubility, that you would think, truth were a fool : drunkenness is his best virtue ; for he will be swine-drunk ; and in his sleep he does little harm, save to his bed-clothes about him ; but they know his conditions, and lay him in straw. I have but little more to say, sir, of his honesty : he has every thing that an honest man should not have ; what an honest man should have, he has nothing.

1 Lord. I begin to love him for this.

Ber. For this description of thine honesty ? a pox upon him for me, he is more and more a cat.

Inter. What say you to his expertness in war ? 449

Par. Faith, sir, he has led the drum before the English tragedians : to belie him, I will not ; and more of his soldiership I know not ; except, in that country, he had the honour to be the officer at a place there call'd Mile-end, to instruct for the doubling of files.

files. I would do the man what honour I can, but of this I am not certain.

1 Lord. He hath out-villain'd villany so far, that the rarity redeems him.

Ber. A pox on him! he's a cat still. 459

Inter. His qualities being at this poor price, I need not to ask you, if gold will corrupt him to revolt?

Par. Sir, for a *quart d'ecu* he will sell the fee-simple of his salvation, the inheritance of it; and cut the intail from all remainders, and a perpetual succession for it perpetually.

Inter. What's his brother, the other captain Dumain?

2 Lord. Why does he ask him of me?

Inter. What's he? 469

Par. E'en a crow of the same nest; not altogether so great as the first in goodness, but greater a great deal in evil. He excels his brother for a coward, yet his brother is reputed one of the best that is. In a retreat he out-runs any lacquey; marry, in coming on he has the cramp.

Inter. If your life be saved, will you undertake to betray the Florentine?

Par. Ay, and the captain of his horse, count Roussillon. 479

Inter. I'll whisper with the general, and know his pleasure.

Par. I'll no more drumming, a plague of all drums! Only to seem to deserve well, and to beguile the supposition of that lascivious young boy the count, have

I run into this danger: Yet, who would have suspected an ambush where I was taken. *[Aside.*

Inter. There is no remedy, sir, but you must die: the general says, you, that have so traiterously discovered the secrets of your army, and made such pestiferous reports of men very nobly held, can serve the world for no very honest use; therefore you must die. Come, headsman, off with his head. 492

Par. O Lord, sir; let me live, or let me see my death.

Inter. That shall you, and take your leave of all your friends. *[Unbinding him.*

So, look about you; know you any here?

Ber. Good-morrow, noble captain.

2 Lord. Good bless you, captain Parolles.

1 Lord. God save you, noble captain. 500

2 Lord. Captain, what greeting will you to my lord Lafeu? I am for France.

1 Lord. Good captain, will you give me a copy of that same sonnet you writ to Diana in behalf of the count Rousillon? if I were not a very coward, I'd compel it of you; but fare you well. *[Exeunt.*

Inter. You are undone, captain, all but your scarf; that has a knot on't yet.

Par. Who cannot be crush'd with a plot? 509

Inter. If you can find out a country where but women were that had received so much shame, you might begin an impudent nation. Fare you well, sir; I am for France too; we shall speak of you there. *[Exit.*

Par. Yet am I thankful. If my heart were great,

I

'Twould

'Twould burst at this. Captain I'll be no more ;
 But I will eat and drink, and sleep as soft,
 As captain shall : simply the thing I am
 Shall make me live. Who knows himself a braggart
 Let him fear this ; for it will come to pass,
 That every braggart shall be found an ass. 520
 Rust, sword ! cool, blushes ! and, Parolles, live }
 Safest in shame ! being fool'd, by foolery thrive ! }
 There's place and means for every man alive. }
 I'll after them. [Exit.

SCENE IV.

Changes to the Widow's House, at Florence. Enter
 HELENA, Widow, and DIANA.

Hel. That you may well perceive I have not
 wrong'd you,
 One of the greatest in the Christian world
 Shall be my surety ; 'fore whose throne, 'tis needful,
 Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel.
 Time was, I did him a desired office,
 Dear almost as his life ; which gratitude 530
 Through flinty Tartar's bosom would peep forth,
 And answer thanks. I duly am inform'd,
 His Grace is at Marseilles ; to which place
 We have convenient convoy. You must know,
 I am supposed dead : the army breaking,
 My husband hies him home ; where, heaven aiding,
 And by the leave of my good lord the king,

We'll

We'll be, before our welcome.

Wid. Gentle madam,
You never had a servant, to whose trust 540
Your business was more welcome.

Hel. Nor you, mistress,
Ever a friend, whose thoughts more truly labour
To recompense your love : doubt not, but heaven
Hath brought me up to be your daughter's dower,
As it hath fated her to be my motive
And helper to a husband. But, O strange men !
That can such sweet use make of what they hate,
When saucy trusting of the cozen'd thoughts
Defiles the pitchy night ! so lust doth play 550
With what it loathes, for that which is away :
But more of this hereafter.—You, Diana,
Under my poor instructions yet must suffer
Something in my behalf.

Dia. Let death and honesty
Go with your impositions, I am your's
Upon your will to suffer.

Hel. Yet, I pray you :
But with the word, the time will bring on summer,
When briars shall have leaves as well as thorns, 560
And be as sweet as sharp. We must away :
Our waggon is prepar'd, and time revives us ;
All's well that ends well ; still the *fine's* the crown ;
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

Rousillon. Enter Countess, LAFEU, and Clown.

Laf. No, no, no, your son was mis-led with a snipt-taffata fellow there; whose villanous saffron would have made all the unbak'd and doughy youth of a nation in his colour. Your daughter-in-law had been alive at this hour; and your son here at home, more advanced by the king than by that red-tail'd humble bee I speak of. 571

Count. I would, I had not known him! it was the death of the most virtuous gentlewoman that ever nature had praise for creating; if she had partaken of my flesh, and cost me the dearest groans of a mother, I could not have owed her a more rooted love.

Laf. 'Twas a good lady, 'twas a good lady. We may pick a thousand sallets, ere we light on such another herb. 579

Clo. Indeed, sir, she was the sweet-marjoram of the sallet, or rather the herb of grace.

Laf. They are not sallet-herbs, you knave, they are nose-herbs.

Clo. I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, sir, I have not much skill in grass.

Laf. Whether dost thou profess thyself; a knave or a fool?

Clo. A fool, sir, at a woman's service; and a knave, at a man's.

Laf. Your distinction?

590

Clo.

Clo. I would cozen the man of his wife, and do his service.

Laf. So you were a knave at his service, indeed.

Clo. And I would give his wife my bauble, sir, to do her service.

Laf. I will subscribe for thee, thou art both knave and fool.

Clo. At your service.

Laf. No, no, no.

Clo. Why, sir, if I cannot serve you, I can serve as great a prince as you are. 601

Laf. Who's that? a Frenchman?

Clo. Faith, sir, he has an English name; but his phisnomy is more hotter in France than there.

Laf. What prince is that?

Clo. The black prince, sir; *alias* the prince of darkness; *alias* the Devil.

Laf. Hold thee, there's my purse: I give thee not this to seduce thee from thy master thou talk'st of; serve him still. 610

Clo. I am a woodland fellow, sir, that always lov'd a great fire; and the master I speak of, ever keeps a good fire. But, sure, he is the prince of the world, let his nobility remain in's court. I am for the house with the narrow gate, which I take to be too little for pomp to enter: some, that humble themselves, may; but the many will be too chill and tender; and they'll be for the flowery way that leads to the broad gate, and the great fire. 619

Laf. Go thy ways, I begin to be a-weary of thee;

and I tell thee so before, because I would not fall out with thee. Go thy ways; let my horses be well look'd to, without any tricks.

Clo. If I put any tricks upon 'em, sir, they shall be jades' tricks; which are their own right by the law of nature. *[Exit.]*

Laf. A shrewd knave, and an unhappy.

Count. So he is. My lord, that's gone, made himself much sport out of him: by his authority he remains here, which he thinks is a patent for his sauciness; and, indeed, he has no pace, but runs where he will. 632

Laf. I like him well; 'tis not amiss: and I was about to tell you, since I heard of the good lady's death, and that my lord your son was upon his return home, I mov'd the king my master to speak in the behalf of my daughter; which, in the minority of them both, his majesty, out of a self-gracious remembrance, did first propose: his highness has promis'd me to do it; and, to stop up the displeasure he hath conceiv'd against your son, there is no fitter matter. How does your ladyship like it? 642

Count. With very much content, my lord; and I wish it happily effected.

Laf. His highness comes post from Marseilles, of as able a body as when he number'd thirty; he will be here to-morrow, or I am deceiv'd by him that in such intelligence hath seldom fail'd.

Count. It rejoices me, that, I hope, I shall see him ere I die. I have letters, that my son will be here to-night:

to-night : I shall beseech your lordship to remain with me 'till they meet together. 652

Laf. Madam, I was thinking, with what manners I might safely be admitted.

Count. You need but plead your honourable privilege.

Laf. Lady, of that I have made a bold charter; but, I thank my God, it holds yet.

Enter Clown.

Clo. O madam, yonder's my lord your son with a patch of velvet on's face: whether there be a scar under't, or no, the velvet knows: but 'tis a goodly patch of velvet: his left cheek is a cheek of two pile and a half, but his right cheek is worn bare. 663

Count. A scar nobly got, or a noble scar, is a good livery of honour. So, belike, is that.

Clo. But it is your carbonado'd face.

Laf. Let us see your son, I pray you: I long to talk with the young noble soldier.

Clo. 'Faith, there's a dozen of 'em with delicate fine hats, and most courteous feathers, which bow the head, and nod at every man. [Exeunt.

ACT V. SCENE I.

The Court of France at Marseilles. Enter HELENA, Widow, and DIANA, with two Attendants.

Helena.

BUT this exceeding posting, day and night,
Must wear your spirits low: we cannot help it;
But since you have made the days and nights as one,
To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs,
Be bold, you do so grow in my requital,
As nothing can unroot you. In happy time——

Enter a Gentleman.

This man may help me to his majesty's ear,
If he would spend his power. God save you, sir.

Gent. And you.

Hel. Sir, I have seen you in the court of France.

Gent. I have been sometimes there.

11

Hel. I do presume, sir, that you are not fallen
From the report that goes upon your goodness;
And, therefore, goaded with most sharp occasions
Which lay nice manners by, I put you to
The use of your own virtues, for the which
I shall continue thankful.

Gent. What's your will?

Hel. That it will please you
To give this poor petition to the king;
And aid me with that store of power you have,

20

To come into his presence.

Gent. The king's not here.

Hel. Not here, sir?

Gent. Not, indeed.

He hence remov'd last night, and with more haste
Than is his use.

Wid. Lord, how we lose our pains!

Hel. *All's well that ends well*, yet;

Tho' time seems so adverse, and means unfit.—

I do beseech you, whither is he gone?

31

Gent. Marry, as I take it, to Rousillon,
Whither I am going.

Hel. I beseech you, sir,
Since you are like to see the king before me,
Commend this paper to his gracious hand;
Which, I presume, shall render you no blame,
But rather make you thank your pains for it.
I will come after you, with what good speed
Our means will make us means.

40

Gent. This I'll do for you.

Hel. And you shall find yourself to be well thank'd,
Whate'er falls more. We must to horse again.
Go, go, provide. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

Rousillon. Enter Clown, and PAROLLES.

Par. Good Mr. Lavatch, give my lord Lafew this
letter: I have ere now, sir, been better known to
you,

you, when I have held familiarity with fresher clothes ; but I am now, sir, muddied in fortune's moat, and smell somewhat strong of her strong displeasure.

50

Clo. Truly, fortune's displeasure is but sluttish, if it smell so strongly as thou speak'st of : I will henceforth eat no fish of fortune's buttering. Pr'ythee, allow the wind.

Par. Nay, you need not to stop your nose, sir ; I speak but by a metaphor.

Clo. Indeed, sir, if your metaphor stink, I will stop my nose ; or against any man's metaphor. Pr'ythee, get thee further.

Par. Pray you, sir, deliver me this paper.

60

Clo. Foh ! pr'ythee, stand away ; a paper from fortune's close-stool, to give to a nobleman ! Look, here he comes himself.

Enter LAFEU.

Here is a pur of fortune's, sir, or fortune's cat (but not a musk cat), that hath fallen into the unclean fish-pond of her displeasure, and, as he says, is muddied withal. Pray you, sir, use the carp as you may ; for he looks like a poor, decay'd, ingenious, foolish, rascally knave. I do pity his distress in my smiles of comfort, and leave him to your lordship.

70

[Exit Clown.]

Par. My lord, I am a man whom fortune hath cruelly scratch'd.

Laf. And what would you have me to do ? 'tis too late

late to pare her nails now. Wherein have you play'd the knave with fortune, that she should scratch you, who of herself is a good lady, and would not have knaves thrive long under her? There's a *quart-d'ecu* for you: Let the justices make you and fortune friends; I am for other business.

Par. I beseech your honour, to hear me one single word. 81

Laf. You beg a single penny more. Come, you shall ha't; save your word.

Par. My name, my good lord, is Parolles.

Laf. You beg more than one word then. Cox' my passion! give me your hand:—How does your drum?

Par. O my good lord, you were the first that found me.

Laf. Was I, in sooth? and I was the first that lost thee. 90

Par. It lies in you, my lord, to bring me in some grace, for you did bring me out.

Laf. Out upon thee, knave! dost thou put upon me at once both the office of God and the devil? one brings thee in grace, and the other brings thee out. [*Sound Trumpets.*] The king's coming, I know, by his trumpets. Sirrah, inquire further after me; I had talk of you last night; tho' you are a fool and a knave, you shall eat; go to, follow. 99

Par. I praise God for you.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Flourish. Enter King, Countess, LAFEU, the two French Lords, with Attendants.

King. We lost a jewel of her ; and our esteem
Was made much poorer by it : but your son,
As mad in folly, lack'd the sense to know
Her estimation home.

Count. 'Tis past, my liege :
And I beseech your majesty to make it
Natural rebellion, done i' the blade of youth,
When oil and fire, too strong for reason's force,
O'erbears it, and burns on.

King. My honour'd lady, 110
I have forgiven and forgotten all :
Tho' my revenges were high bent upon him,
And watch'd the time to shoot.

Laf. This I must say—
But first I beg my pardon—The young lord
Did to his majesty, his mother, and his lady,
Offence of mighty note ; but to himself
The greatest wrong of all. He lost a wife,
Whose beauty did astonish the survey
Of richest eyes ; whose words all ears took captive ;
Whose dear perfection, hearts, that scorn'd to serve,
Humbly call'd mistress. 122

King. Praising what is lost,
Makes the remembrance dear. Well——call him
hither ;

We are reconcil'd, and the first view shall kill
 All repetition : Let him not ask our pardon.
 The nature of his great offence is dead,
 And deeper than oblivion we do bury
 The incensing relicks of it. Let him approach,
 A stranger, no offender ; and inform him, 130
 So 'tis our will he should.

Gent. I shall, my liege.

King. What says he to your daughter ? Have you
 spoke ?

Laf. All, that he is, hath reference to your high-
 ness.

King. Then shall we have a match. I have letters
 sent me,
 That set him high in fame.

Enter BERTRAM.

Laf. He looks well on't.

King. I am not a day of season,
 For thou may'st see a sun-shine and a hail
 In me at once : But to the brightest beams 140
 Distracted clouds give way ; so stand thou forth,
 The time is fair again.

Ber. My high repented blames,
 Dear sovereign, pardon to me.

King. All is whole ;
 Not one word more of the consumed time.
 Let's take the instant by the forward top ;
 For we are old, and on our quick'st decrees
 The inaudible and noiseless foot of time

Steals, ere we can effect them. You remember
The daughter of this lord?

151

Ber. Admiringly, my liege. At first
I stuck my choice upon her, ere my heart
Durst make too bold a herald of my tongue :
Where the impression of mine eye enfixing,
Contempt his scornful perspective did lend me,
Which warp'd the line of every other favour ;
Scorn'd a fair colour, or express'd it stol'n ;
Extended, or contracted, all proportions
To a most hideous object : Thence it came, 160
That she, whom all men prais'd, and whom myself,
Since I have lost, have lov'd, was in mine eye
The dust that did offend it.

King. Well excus'd :——
That thou dost love her, strikes some scores away
From the great 'compt : But love, that comes too late,
Like a remorseful pardon slowly carried,
To the great sender turns a sour offence,
Crying, That is good that is gone : our rash faults
Make trivial price of serious things we have, 170
Not knowing them, until we know their grave.
Oft our displeasures, to ourselves unjust,
Destroy our friends, and, after, weep their dust :
Our own love, waking, cries to see what's done,
While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon.
Be this sweet Helen's knell, and now, forget her.
Send forth your amorous token for fair Maudlin :
The main consents are had ; and here we'll stay
To see our widower's second marriage-day.

Count.

Count. Which better than the first, O dear heaven
bless, 180

Or, ere they meet, in me, O nature, cease!

Laf. Come on, my son, in whom my house's name
Must be digested: give a favour from you
To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter,
That she may quickly come. By my old beard,
And every hair that's on't, Helen, that's dead,
Was a sweet creature: such a ring as this
The last that e'er she took her leave at court,
I saw upon her finger.

Ber. Her's it was not. 190

King. Now, pray you, let me see it: For mine eye,
While I was speaking, oft was fasten'd to't.
This ring was mine; and, when I gave it Helen,
I bade her, if her fortunes ever stood
Necessity'd to help, that by this token
I would relieve her. Had you that craft to reave her
Of what should stead her most?

Ber. My gracious sovereign,
Howe'er it pleases you to take it so,
The ring was never her's. 200

Count. Son, on my life,
I have seen her wear it; and she reckon'd it
At her life's rate.

Laf. I am sure, I saw her wear it.

Ber. You are deceiv'd, my lord, she never saw it.
In Florence was it from a casement thrown me,
Wrap'd in a paper, which contain'd the name
Of her that threw it: Noble she was, and thought

I stood engag'd ; but when I had subscrib'd
To mine own fortune, and inform'd her fully, 210
I could not answer in that course of honour
As she had made the overture, she ceas'd
In heavy satisfaction, and would never
Receive the ring again.

King. Plutus himself,
That knows the tinct and multiplying medicine,
Hath not in nature's mystery more science,
Than I have in this ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas Helen's,
Whoever gave it you : Then, if you know,
That you are well acquainted with yourself, 220
Confess 'twas her's, and by what rough enforcement
You got it from her. She call'd the saints to surety,
That she would never put it from her finger,
Unless she gave it to yourself in bed
(Where you have never come), or sent it us
Upon her great disaster.

Ber. She never saw it.

King. Thou speak'st it falsely, as I love mine
honour ;

And mak'st conjectural fears to come into me,
Which I would fain shut out : If it should prove 230
That thou art so inhuman—'twill not prove so ;—
And yet I know not :—thou didst hate her deadly,
And she is dead ; which nothing, but to close
Her eyes myself, could win me to believe,
More than to see this ring. Take him away,

[*Guards seize* BERTRAM.]

My fore-past proofs, howe'er the matter fall,

Shall

Shall tax my fears of little vanity,
Having vainly fear'd too little.—Away with him;—
We'll sift this matter further.

Ber. If you shall prove, 240
This ring was ever her's, you shall as easy
Prove that I husbanded her bed in Florence,
Where yet she never was. [*Exit BERTRAM guarded.*]

Enter a Gentleman.

King. I am wrap'd in dismal thinkings.

Gent. Gracious sovereign,
Whether I have been to blame, or no, I know not:
Here's a petition from a Florentine,
Who hath, some four or five removes, come short
To tender it herself. I undertook it,
Vanquish'd thereto by the fair grace and speech 250
Of the poor suppliant, who by this, I know,
Is here attending: her business looks in her
With an importing visage; and she told me,
In a sweet verbal brief, it did concern
Your highness with herself.

The King reads a Letter.

*Upon his many protestations to marry me, when his wife
was dead, I blush to say it, he won me. Now is the count
Rousillon a widower, his vows are forfeited to me, and my
honour's paid to him. He stole from Florence, taking no
leave, and I follow him to this country for justice: Grant
it me, O king! in you it best lies; otherwise a seducer flou-
rishes, and a poor maid is undone.* 262

DIANA CAPULET.

Laf. I will buy me a son-in-law in a fair, and toll
for this.

I'll none of him.

King. The heavens have thought well on thee,
Lafeu,

To bring forth this discovery.—Seek these suitors :
Go, speedily, and bring again the count.

Enter BERTRAM, *guarded.*

I am afraid, the life of Helen (lady),
Was foully snatch'd.

270

Count. Now, justice on the doers !

King. I wonder, sir, wives are so monstrous to you ;
And that you fly them as you swear to them ;
Yet you desire to marry. What woman's that ?

Enter Widow, *and* DIANA.

Dia. I am, my lord, a wretched Florentine,
Derived from the ancient Capulet ;
My suit, as I do understand, you know,
And therefore know how far I may be pitied.

Wid. I am her mother, sir, whose age and honour
Both suffer under this complaint we bring,
And both shall cease, without your remedy.

280

King. Come hither, count ; do you know these
women ?

Ber. My lord, I neither can, nor will, deny
But that I know them : Do they charge me further ?

Dia. Why do you look so strange upon your wife ?

Ber. She's none of mine, my lord.

Dia.

Dia. If you shall marry,
 You give away this hand, and that is mine;
 You give away heaven's vows, and those are mine;
 You give away myself, which is known mine; 290
 For I by vow am so embodied your's,
 That she, which marries you, must marry me,
 Either both, or none.

Laf. Your reputation comes too short for my
 daughter, you are no husband for her.

[To BERTRAM.

Ber. My lord, this is a fond and desperate creature,
 Whom sometime I have laugh'd with: let your high-
 ness

Lay a more noble thought upon mine honour,
 Than for to think that I would sink it here.

King. Sir, for my thoughts, you have them ill to
 friend, 300

'Till your deeds gain them: Fairer prove your honour,
 Than in my thought it lies!

Dia. Good my lord,
 Ask him upon his oath, if he does think
 He had not my virginity.

King. What say'st thou to her?

Ber. She's impudent, my lord;
 And was a common gamester to the camp.

Dia. He does me wrong, my lord; if I were so,
 He might have bought me at a common price. 310
 Do not believe him. O, behold this ring,
 Whose high respect and rich validity
 Did lack a parallel: yet for all that,

He

He gave it to a commoner o' the camp,
If I be one.

Count. He blushes, and 'tis it :
Of six preceding ancestors, that gem
Conferr'd by testament to the sequent issue,
Hath it been ow'd and worn. This is his wife,
That ring's a thousand proofs. 320

King. Methought, you said,
You saw one here in court could witness it.

Dia. I did, my lord, but loth am to produce
So bad an instrument ; his name's Parolles.

Laf. I saw the man to-day, if man he be.

King. Find him, and bring him hither.

Ber. What of him ?

He's quoted for a most perfidious slave,
With all the spots o'the world tax'd and debosh'd,
Which nature sickens with : but to speak truth : 330
Am I or that, or this, for what he'll utter,
That will speak any thing ?

King. She hath that ring of your's.

Ber. I think, she has : certain it is, I lik'd her,
And boarded her i' the wanton way of youth :
She knew her distance, and did angle for me,
Madding my eagerness with her restraint ;
As all impediments in fancy's course,
Are motives of more fancy : and in fine,
Her insuit coming with her modern grace, 340
Subdu'd me to her rate : she got the ring ;
And I had that, which any inferior might
At market-price have bought.

Dia.

Dia. I must be patient :
You, that turn'd off a first so noble wife,
May justly diet me. I pray you yet
(Since you lack virtue, I will lose a husband),
Send for your ring, I will return it home,
And give me mine again.

Ber. I have it not. 350

King. What ring was your's, I pray you ?

Dia. Sir, much like
The same upon your finger.

King. Know you this ring ? this ring was his of late.

Dia. And this was it I gave him, being a-bed.

King. The story then goes false, you threw it him
Out of a casement.

Dia. I have spoke the truth.

Enter PAROLLES.

Ber. My lord, I do confess, the ring was her's.

King. You boggle shrewdly, every feather starts
you.— 360

Is this the man you speak of ?

Dia. It is, my lord.

King. Tell me, sirrah, but tell me true, I charge
you,

Not fearing the displeasure of your master
(Which, on your just proceeding, I'll keep off),
By him, and by this woman here, what know you ?

Par. So please your majesty, my master hath been
an honourable gentleman. Tricks he hath had in
him, which gentlemen have.

King.

King. Come, come, to the purpose? Did he love this woman? 371

Par. 'Faith, sir, he did love her: but how?

King. How, I pray you?

Par. He did love her, sir, as a gentleman loves a woman.

King. How is that?

Par. He lov'd her, sir, and lov'd her not.

King. As thou art a knave, and no knave: What an equivocal companion is this?

Par. I am a poor man, and at your majesty's command. 381

Laf. He's a good drum, my lord, but a naughty orator.

Dia. Do you know, he promis'd me marriage?

Par. 'Faith, I know more than I'll speak.

King. But wilt thou not speak all thou know'st?

Par. Yes, so please your majesty, I did go between them, as I said; but more than that, he loved her: for, indeed, he was mad for her, and talk'd of Satan, and of limbo, and of furies, and I know not what; yet I was in that credit with them at that time, that I knew of their going to bed; and of other motions, as promising her marriage, and things that would derive me ill-will to speak of: therefore I will not speak what I know.

King. Thou hast spoken all already, unless thou canst say they are married: But thou art too fine in thy evidence; therefore, stand aside. This ring, you say, was your's?

Dia.

Dia. Ay, my good lord. 400

King. Where did you buy it? or who gave it you?

Dia. It was not given me, nor did I buy it.

King. Who lent it you?

Dia. It was not lent me neither.

King. Where did you find it then?

Dia. I found it not.

King. If it were your's by none of all these ways,
How could you give it him?

Dia. I never gave it him.

Laf. This woman's an easy glove, my lord; she
goes off and on at pleasure. 411

King. The ring was mine, I gave it his first wife.

Dia. It might be your's, or her's, for aught I know.

King. Take her away, I do not like her now;
To prison with her: and away with him.—

Unless thou tell'st me, where thou hadst this ring,
Thou diest within this hour.

Dia. I'll never tell you.

King. Take her away.

Dia. I'll put in bail, my liege. 420

King. I think thee now some common customer.

Dia. By Jove, if ever I knew man, 'twas you.

King. Wherefore hast thou accus'd him all this
while?

Dia. Because he's guilty, and he is not guilty;
He knows, I am no maid, and he'll swear to't:

I'll swear I am a maid, and he knows not.

Great king, I am no strumpet, by my life;

I am

I am either maid, or else this old man's wife.

[*Pointing to LAFEU.*

King. She does abuse our ears ; to prison with her.

Dia. Good mother, fetch my bail. Stay, royal sir,

[*Exit Widow.*

The jeweller, that owes the ring, is sent for, 431

And he shall surety me. But for this lord,

[*To BERTRAM.*

Who hath abus'd me, as he knows himself,

Though yet he never harm'd me, here I quit him.

He knows himself, my bed he hath defil'd,

And at that time he got his wife with child :

Dead tho' she be, she feels her young one kick ;

So there's my riddle, One, that's dead, is quick.

And now behold the meaning.

Enter HELENA, and Widow.

King. Is there no exorcist

440

Beguiles the truer office of mine eyes ?

Is't real, that I see ?

Hel. No, my good lord ;

'Tis but a shadow of a wife you see,

The name, and not the thing.

Ber. Both, both ; oh, pardon !

Hel. Oh, my good lord, when I was like this maid,

I found you wondrous kind. There is your ring,

And look you, here's your letter : This it says,

When from my finger you can get this ring, 450

And are by me with child, &c. This is done.

Will you be mine, now you are doubly won ?

Ber.

Ber. If she, my liege, can make me know this
clearly,

I'll love her dearly, ever, ever dearly.

Hel. If it appear not plain, and prove untrue,
Deadly divorce step between me and you!

O, my dear mother, do I see you living?

[*To the Countess.*

Laf. Mine eyes smell onions, I shall weep anon :—
Good Tom Drum, lend me a handkerchief, [*To PA-
ROLLES.*] So, I thank thee, wait on me home. I'll
make sport with thee: Let thy courtesies alone, they
are scurvy ones. 462

King. Let us from point to point this story know,
To make the even truth in pleasure flow :—

If thou be'st yet a fresh uncropped flower,

[*To DIANA.*

Choose thou thy husband, and I'll pay thy dower ;

For I can guess, that, by thy honest aid,

Thou kept'st a wife herself, thyself a maid.

Of that, and all the progress more and less,

Resolvedly more leisure shall express :

470

All yet seems well ; and if it end so meet,

The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet.

[*Exeunt.*

E P I L O G U E,

Spoken by the KING.

*THE King's a beggar, now the play is done :
All is well ended, if this suit be won,
That you express content ; which we shall pay,
With strife to please you, day exceeding day.
Ours be your patience then, and yours our parts ;
Your gentle hands lend us, and take our hearts.*

THE END.



Shakespeare, William, / Johnson, Samuel, / Steevens, George,

All's Well That Ends Well

London 1786

Coburg, Landesbibliothek -- C II 7/34#2

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb11919462-8